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CONTENTS

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

10 Nov Talks Deal With Events in Lebanon *[Jerusalem TV]* 2
Al-'Allaf Says 'No Progress' in 10 Nov Session *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Lubrani on Tension in Lebanon, Washington Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
Delegates Note 'Retreat' in Palestinian Position *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Israelis: Palestinian Talks To Continue After Interim Accord *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
'Ashrawi Says Unofficial Talks To Continue *[AL-QUDS 10 Nov]* 4
    Denies Differences Within Delegation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Israel Quits Ottawa Talks as PNC Member Attends *[Jerusalem TV]* 6
Jordanian Delegation Leaves for Talks in Canada *[Amman Radio]* 6

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Union Presidential Council Meets 6
    Mauritanian President Opens Meeting *[Nouakchott TV]* 6
    Ali Kafi Addresses Opening Session *[Nouakchott TV]* 7
    'Arafat Speaks *[Nouakchott TV]* 8
    Secretary General Speaks *[Nouakchott TV]* 9
    Ben Ali Addresses Closing Session *[Nouakchott Radio]* 9
    Taya Closes Summit *[Nouakchott Radio]* 10
    Final Communique Issued *[Nouakchott Radio]* 10

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Said Urging Jordan To Drop 'Agenda Agreement' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Nov]* 13
PNC Official Criticizes Clinton's Comments on Jerusalem *[MENA]* 14
Envoy to Egypt Expects No Change in U.S. Policy *[MENA]* 14
Hamas Statement Urges Resistance, Strike *[Al-Quds Radio]* 14
'Arafat Forbids Internecine Killings in Territories *[AL-SHA'B 9 Nov]* 14
'Arafat Invites Territories' Figures for Talks *[AL-QUDS 10 Nov]* 14

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Phones Clinton to Discuss Cooperation *[MENA]* 15
Arabs Urged To Take Stand on Clinton's Policies *[MENA]* 15
Israel's Peres To Arrive for Talks 15 Nov *[Cairo Radio]* 15
New Israeli Envoy Presents Credentials, Comments *[MENA]* 15
Musa Reiterates 'Land-for-Peace' Stance *[MENA]* 15
Israeli Position at Peace Talks Viewed *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Israeli 'True Intentions' in Talks Questioned *[MENA]* 16
PLO's 'Arafat Visits for High-Level Talks *[MENA]* 16
    'Arafat Meeting With Mubarak *[MENA]* 16
    Musa Comments on Talks *[MENA]* 17
    Musa Meets 'Arafat *[Cairo Radio]* 17

Comments on Consultations *[Cairo Radio]* ... 17
'Arafat on Talks With Mubarak *[Cairo Radio]* ... 17
Musa, 'Arafat Resume Meetings *[Cairo Radio]* ... 18
PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Makes 'Short Visit' *[MENA]* ... 18
Official To Attend Meeting on Palestinian Refugees *[Cairo Radio]* ... 18
Moroccan King Said Seeking al-Asad-Rabin Meeting *[AL-MUSAWWAR 6 Nov]* ... 18
Statement Issued on Azerbaijani Delegation's Visit *[MENA]* ... 18
Minister Hands Mubarak Mauritian President's Note *[Cairo TV]* ... 19
MENA Reports 'Breakthrough' in Talks With IMF ... 19
German Tourists, Others Wounded in Bus Attack *[MENA]* ... 19
Official Gives Details *[MENA]* ... 20
Authorities Identify Attackers *[MENA]* ... 20
Cruises Suspended Through Fundamentalist Areas *[AFP]* ... 20
Security Forces Take Action Against Violence ... 21
Eight Arrested in Sanabu *[AFP]* ... 21
154 Arrested in Asyut *[AFP]* ... 21
Situation 'Stable' in Asyut *[MENA]* ... 21
'Infighting' in Asyut Causes Casualties *[MENA]* ... 21
Fundamentalist Professors Protest Security Steps *[AFP]* ... 21
Second Round of Local Council Elections Held *[Cairo TV]* ... 22
'Dictatorial' Election Practices Criticized *[AL-WAFD 4 Nov]* ... 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir Comments on Clinton Victory, Internal Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Nov]* ... 23

Saudi Arabia

King Congratulates Clinton on Election Victory *[SPA]* ... 24
Clinton Warned To Shun Zionist Lobby *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Nov]* ... 24

Yemen

Bomb Explosion Reported Near U.S. Embassy *[Tehran Radio]* ... 25
Opposition Calls Strike Over Election Postponement *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Nov]* ... 25

IRAQ

Talabani Expects U.S. Stand To Remain Firm *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* ... 27
Kurdish Leaders Call Turkish Attack 'Unjustified' *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Nov]* ... 27
Talabani Meets Turkish Commander *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* ... 27
Patriotic Union Leader Rejects 'Pan-Kurdism' *[Rome AVANTI! 6 Nov]* ... 27
Opposition Figure on Meeting, Clinton Win *[Voice of the Arabs]* ... 28
IAO Withdraws from Iraqi Opposition Congress *[Voice of Iraqi People]* ... 29
Kurdistan 'Prime Minister' Criticizes UN Relief *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* ... 29
SAIRI Leader Addresses Islamic Army Meeting *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* ... 29
Daily: Clinton Should Learn From Bush's Mistakes *[INA]* ... 30
Syria Said Ready To Sign Agreement With Israel *[Baghdad VOP]* ... 30
Shiite Troops Destroy Vehicle, Kill 'Mercenaries' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* ... 30
Shiite Radio Reports Operations Against Regime *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* ... 30
UN Medical Aid Arrives; Health Situation Reported *[INA]* ... 31
Oil Minister Views Reserves, Energy Rationing *[INA]* ... 31
Presidential Adviser Addresses Oil Conference *[INA]* ... 32

ISRAEL

Military Tension Continues on Border With Lebanon ... 33
IDF Continues Moving Troops Northward *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 33
No Forces North of Security Zone *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 33

  - 'Tense Quiet' After Air Force Raid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
  - Artillery in Security Zone Tripled *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Officials React to Situation in Southern Lebanon 33
  - Special 'Preparedness' Needed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
  - 'Full Force' Threatened *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
  - Peres Promises To Take 'All Measures' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
  - Expansion of Security Zone Urged *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
  - Talks Separate From Response *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- EC Concerned Over South Lebanon Situation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
  - Official Briefs EC Envoys *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
- Restraint in Lebanon Encouraged *[HA'ARETZ 12 Nov]* 35
- Peres on Peace Process, Trip to Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
- Defense Sales to Eastern Europe $100 Million *[HA'ARETZ 11 Nov]* 37

JORDAN

- Change to British-Style Monarchy Seen Soon *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 7 Nov]* 38
- Columnist on 'Dubious' U.S. Embassy Activity *[AL-RIBAT 11 Nov]* 38
- King Meets Delegates to Arab Trade Meetings *[PETRA-JNA]* 39
- PLO's Qaddumi Visits Amman for Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Nov]* 40
- Palestinian Delegation Joins in Coordination Talks 40
  - Talks Begin *[Amman Radio]* 40
  - Delegates Meet Prime Minister *[Amman Radio]* 40
  - PLO Official Comments *[Amman TV]* 40

LEBANON

- Birri Asks Clinton To Advise Israel To Withdraw *[Beirut Radio]* 41
- Minister Reportedly Asks Hizballah To Halt Attacks *[RFL]* 41
- Hizballah's Nasrallah Comments on Resistance *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
- Buwayz on Citizens' Right To Fight Occupation *[VOL]* 42

SYRIA

- Khaddam 'Waiting To See' Clinton Posture *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Nov]* 43
- Hope, Optimism Linked With New Administration *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Nov]* 43
- * Russia Reportedly Concludes New Arms Deal *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Nov]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Iranian Foreign Minister Continues Visit 45
  - Consults With Gaylani *[Kabul Radio]* 45
  - Joint Communique Issued *[Kabul Radio]* 45
  - Velayati Departs *[IRNA]* 46
- Hekmatyar Interviewed on Possibility of War *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 46
- Unity Party Leader on Constituent Council Issues *[Tehran TV]* 47

India

- Prospects for Clinton Presidency Viewed *[INDIAN EXPRESS 5 Nov]* 47
- Iran's Velayati Visits for Consultations *[IRNA]* 48
  - Joint Commission Convenes *[Tehran Radio]* 48
  - Cooperation To Be Expanded *[Delhi Radio]* 49
  - Velayati, Rao Meet *[Tehran Radio]* 49
  - President Receives Iranian Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 49
- Delegation Departs for Nonproliferation Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 49
- French Proposal on Nuclear Test Ban Viewed *[Delhi International]* 49
- Sino-Indian Confidence-Building Measures *[INDIAN EXPRESS 4 Nov]* 50
- Naval Chief Comments on Indo-U.S. Exercises *[INDIAN EXPRESS 4 Nov]* 51

Minister Urges India-Canada Joint Ventures *[INDIAN EXPRESS 5 Nov]* 51
Groups To Boost Trade Relations With Italy *[INDIAN EXPRESS 4 Nov]* 52
Singapore Taking Steps To Further Develop Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Foreign Policy Course Corrections Anticipated *[Delhi International]* 52
Punjab Border With Pakistan Being Reinforced *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Chavan Views Steps To Tackle Terrorism in South *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Finance Ministry Implicated in Securities Scam *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Minister on Objectives of New Industrial Policy *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Officials Expect Improved Economic Growth *[Delhi TV]* 54

Iran

Chief Justice Confirms Death Sentence on Rushdie *[IRNA]* 54
Khamene'i Reminds Schools of 'Revolutionary Duty' *[Tehran TV]* 54
Khamene'i Rejects Resignation of Khorramabad Imam *[Tehran TV]* 55
Tehran Municipality Demolishes More Buildings *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Rafsanjani Comments on Qazvin Power Station Visit *[Tehran TV]* 55
ICO Secretary General Calls 'Emergency Session' *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Bosnian Muslim Envoy Grateful for Support *[Tehran Radio]* 55
IRNA: Palestinian Cause Suffers 'Severe Setbacks' 56
Egypt Reminded of Conditions for Ties *[Tehran International]* 56
Government To Release 400 Iraqi POW's *[IRNA]* 57
Joint Research Center on Caspian Sea To Open *[IRNA]* 57

Pakistan

Minister on Working With New U.S. Administration *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Indian Minister's Statement on Punjab Rejected *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
'No Forward Movement' Seen in Talks With India *[Islamabad TV]* 58
Sharif Discusses India With Human Rights Activist *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Government Takes Strong Exception To PDA March *[Islamabad TV]* 58
Minister on Possible Fighter Aircraft Purchase *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Japanese Royal Couple Visits Islamabad 58
    Thanked for Economic Aid *[Tokyo KYODO]* 58
    Meets With Prime Minister *[Tokyo KYODO]* 59
    Tours Khyber Pass *[Tokyo KYODO]* 59

Lebanon

Defense Minister Dallul met with a Hizballah delegation on 11 November and requested that Hizballah stop its Katyusha rocket attacks against northern Israel and the southern Lebanon border zone, according to Radio Free Lebanon, which cited the London newspaper AL-HAYAH. A Hizballah source, however, denied that the request was made. In a radio call to Voice of the Mountain, the source said that Hizballah's talks with Dallul emphasized "the need for the resistance to continue its activity as long as the Israeli occupation shows no restraint."

Israel

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) continue to move more troops and artillery to the border with Lebanon, Jerusalem TV reports. Air Force planes have attacked Hizballah targets in the village of Siddiqin, according to Jerusalem radio. Military sources insist that there are no IDF forces north of the security zone, Tel Aviv radio reports.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak congratulated U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton during a phone conversation on 10 November, MENA reported, noting that "the shape of bilateral cooperation" was also discussed.

In Qina, Upper Egypt, Muslim fundamentalists machinegunned a tour bus. Six of the 17 Germanan tourists aboard were wounded, as well as the Egyptian driver and another Egyptian bystander, MENA reported. According to a security official quoted by the agency, one suspect was "arrested immediately" and the remaining suspects have been identified. Security authorities in Asyut recently took into custody some "154 Muslim fundamentalists suspected of plotting to attack police stations and other establishments," AFP reported.

Yemen

A "powerful" time bomb exploded near the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, Tehran radio reports. There are no reports so far on any casualties or damage caused by the explosion. The radio reports that this is the second bomb that has been detonated near the U.S. Embassy since the "escalation of political violence" in Yemen.

Afghanistan-Iran

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati and his delegation made an "official and friendly one-day visit" to Kabul on 9 November, a joint communique aired by Kabul radio announced. The talks "were held in an atmosphere of faternity and complete understanding," the communique noted. Following discussions on "issues of mutual interest," Velayati left for bilateral meetings in New Delhi, IRNA added.

Arab-Israeli Talks

10 Nov Talks Deal With Events in Lebanon

TA1011205692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's chief delegate to talks with Syria, today denounced his Syrian counterpart's remarks defining the Hizballah activities as legal resistance in accordance with international law. Prof. Rabinovich said the Syrians would do better to refrain from encouraging a debate on the nature of the occupation of Lebanon.

In today's discussions, the Syrians refused to elaborate on their concept of the essence of peace. Israel has been demanding that as a condition for providing additional clarifications concerning withdrawal.

More on today's talks from our reporters in Washington Ehud Ya'ari and Ya'ir Stern:

[Begin recording] [Stern] The Katyushas which landed in the Galilee had a direct impact on the Washington talks. Today, just like yesterday, the Israeli and the Lebanese delegations had no interest in discussing peace. The Katyusha attacks prompted the chief Israeli delegate again to caution the Lebanese that things cannot go on like this. [passage omitted]

It is clear even now that Israel and Lebanon will achieve no progress in this round of talks. The events in the north have affected the talks with Syria, too, although an attempt to reach a joint statement of principles has been made in that track.

Addressing the media, the head of the Syrian delegation referred to the events in Lebanon, justifying the Hizballah attacks:

[Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, in English] Syria is not responsible for the national resistance movements, which are only responding to a situation of occupation. As long as occupation is existing there, it constitutes an aggression against the Lebanese people, and resistance action in this case is something which is accepted by international law and by the charter of the United Nations.

[Rabinovich, in English] We do not conduct business as usual, but we are determined to proceed with the talks towards successful culmination. We are also determined not to play into the hands of those who deliberately seek to obstruct the process.

[Passage omitted]

[Ya'ari] So far, the talks with Lebanon have not regained their routinely futile nature. Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, demanded today that his Lebanese counterpart Suhayl Shammas furnish an unequivocal reply to the one and only question: Does Hizballah represent Lebanon's lawful authority, and does that authority consent to Hizballah's activities? He received no answer. Shammas adhered to his version that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] remaining in the security zone encourages those who would like to evict it.

The Israelis complained that Hizballah had beefed up its presence in south Lebanon, and that although the 15th Katyusha has already landed, no countermeasures have been taken by Lebanon.

The negotiations are now subject to the tension in the north. The formal Israeli stand saying that we will fight terrorism as if no talks existed, and vice-versa, is a fine diplomatic slogan, but in reality, such separation is anything but simple.

The Syrians are persistently implying that they are ready for a joint declaration of principles—doing so perhaps out of the fear that an Israeli reprisal may unsettle the Syrian-Lebanese defense treaty. And yet, they are still unwilling to accommodate Israel by replacing the term full withdrawal with a more vague formulation.

In today's talks with Jordan, the friendly al-Majali-Rubinstein battle of minds focused on salvaging the agreement by amending the phrasing of paragraph No. 5 of the agenda dealing with the definition of the border between the West Bank and Jordan. It is doubtful that they will be able to conclude the debate today, but Israel insists that when they do conclude it, the fact be made public and the document be sealed against additional demands for amendments.

In addition, the two teams agreed to launch discussions in working groups, beginning with the water committee. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-'Allaf Says 'No Progress' in 10 Nov Session

JN1111082092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has said that discussions during yesterday's meeting were futile, and consequently no progress was achieved. In a statement to journalists after the meeting, al-'Allaf said: The Israeli side is still captive to its distorted concept regarding the nature of peace and secure and recognized borders. The Israelis refrain from abiding by what is required in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and in accordance with the peace process concerning complete withdrawal from the Arab territory occupied in 1967.

Responding to a journalist's question, al-'Allaf said that the concept of secure and recognized borders should not be used as a pretext to continue occupation and expansion. He added that this is contrary to Resolution 242 which clearly draws a line between withdrawal from the lands occupied in 1967—without linking this with anything else—and secure and recognized borders, which would result from a state of peace after complete withdrawal. He added: The Israelis try to link the two issues together; that is, it wants to withdraw to what it terms secure and recognized borders. He said: The Arabs reject this. This is also contrary to the international legitimacy resolutions, the spirit of the peace process, and the land for peace principle.

The Arab delegations will resume meetings with the Israeli delegation tomorrow, Thursday, since Wednesday is an official holiday in the United States.

The Arab delegations to the peace talks met with the Israeli side yesterday, the second day of the second part of the current seventh round. Answering a question before the meeting on the effects of the Israeli military provocations against Lebanon on the talks, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said: We are worried about such Israeli stands, which affect the peace process. We believe that since we came here to talk about peace we should refrain from making such provocations. Asked his opinion about Israeli officials' statements that Israel will continue its war against what it calls terrorism, al-'Allaf said: This only affirms that Israel's policy is based on provocation of and aggression against the Arab people at a time when it claims to be seeking peace.

Answering another question, al-'Allaf said: Any Israeli talk about partial peace is rejected. Such talk means that Israel does not seek peace. The grounds on which the peace process was launched were complete and comprehensive; and this means complete withdrawal. Responding to another question, al-'Allaf said: The national Lebanese resistance is responding to occupation. The continuation of occupation constitutes aggression against the Lebanese people. Therefore, acts of resistance are legitimate in accordance with the international law and UN Charter.

Al-'Allaf denied any knowledge of a possible visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The Arab delegations to the peace talks in Washington expressed concern over military tension on the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine and its negative repercussions on the peace talks. The Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Washington said that the first session of talks between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations was short and violent, particularly since Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, exploited the situation to direct threats to Lebanon instead of holding negotiations with the Lebanese side.

Lubrani on Tension in Lebanon, Washington Talks

TA1111163192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with Lebanon, in Washington, by Gay Zohar and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good evening, Uri Lubrani, chief Israeli delegate to talks with Lebanon.

[Lubrani] Good evening.

[Zohar] We heard today about the Lebanese demand that Hizballah stop firing Katyushas at Israel. With your experience in these matters, can you tell us whether we should take this demand seriously?

[Lubrani] I suggest that we wait and see. As long as it has not happened, I suggest that we treat it very skeptically. But I hope it will happen.

[Mardor] Mr. Lubrani, being in Washington, you may be able to show us a different, a more interesting angle on the events in our north.

[Lubrani] There is naturally a connection between the Washington and the Lebanese scenes. Here in Washington, we are unable to conduct amicable talks with the Lebanese, ignoring the continuing tension and Katyushas in Israel's north. We are trying to make the Lebanese understand that it is up to them and their ally to introduce order in Lebanon, to end the firing, and to bring about a situation allowing us to discuss the issues on the agenda.

[Zohar] Do you feel that your messages to the Lebanese in Washington reach the concerned elements in this region? Are they perhaps relayed to Beirut?

[Lubrani] I do not doubt in the least that our messages reach whomever they are supposed to reach. As far as we have been able to ascertain—at least from the Lebanese media—they have fully understood that the onus [previous word in English] of putting their house in order is on them, not us.

[Mardor] Our correspondent reports that Lebanon and Syria are convinced Israel is out to sabotage the talks. Is it not a dialogue of mutual accusations?

[Lubrani] We have repeatedly stated—and I believe the Lebanese know we mean it—that we are pursuing the goal of reaching an arrangement with Lebanon and of continuing the discussions and that we will do all it takes to achieve some sort of progress, despite the difficulties and the convolutions the talks have gone through. We will do so disregarding the events in the field, and we will do whatever is needed in the field, without regard for the negotiations in Washington. These two facets are linked in that they affect the atmosphere and the ability to achieve progress, but we will stick to our efforts to make progress nevertheless.

[Zohar] This is not a personal question, Uri Lubrani, but you are sitting with the Lebanese and asking them to settle the situation, while what you should do perhaps is to sit with the Syrians.

[Lubrani] True. I think the Syrians, too, know that we are convinced that they could have contributed very significantly to calming the situation. We are not the only ones who know this. Also, I am aware that the Syrians are being pressured both by the Lebanese and by other elements to bring about calm.

[Zohar] Uri Lubrani in Washington, we hope your next day of talks is less unproductive, and that progress will be made in other matters as well. Thank you very much.

[Lubrani] Thank you, and shalom.

Delegates Note 'Retreat' in Palestinian Position

TA1111071592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] There will be no peace talks today. The Arab delegations called them off because today, Veterans Day, is a national holiday in the United States. Israel had wanted to hold meetings today—and the Americans subscribed to this position—but they were called off at the Arabs' request. According to our Washington correspondent, Shlomo Raz, it is believed the Arabs requested to call off today's meetings to have more time to become acquainted with the new political situation in the United States in the wake of the elections.

At yesterday's meeting with the Israeli delegation, the Palestinians raised the question of Jerusalem and the settlements in the territories although it was made clear to them that these issues are not up for negotiation. The Palestinians were told once again that what should be discussed now are the interim arrangements for self-rule in the territories. Israeli delegates told our Washington correspondent, Arye Golan, that there actually has been a retreat in the positions presented by the Palestinians.

Edward Djerejian, the State Department official in charge of the Middle East, who has been closely monitoring the talks, told the Israeli delegates that the Palestinians are marking time and waiting to see the nature of the new U.S. Administration.

The Israeli delegation to the talks with the Jordanians has asked Jerusalem for instructions on how to respond to the Jordanian demands. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Jordanians want to change substantially the wording they already have agreed upon. Among other things, they are demanding that the document dealing with the agenda state that at stake is a comprehensive peace treaty. They want to strengthen the linkage between the Jordanian and the Palestinian tracks of the talks and to ascertain that the demarcation of the border in the 'Arava will not be final.

Israelis: Palestinian Talks To Continue After Interim Accord

TA1211055092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Members of the Israeli delegation to the bilateral peace talks in Washington met yesterday with Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian. They again committed Israel to continuing peace negotiations with the Palestinians even after an interim arrangement is reached to achieve a permanent solution. The Israeli negotiators believe the difficulties with the Palestinians are caused by Palestinian fears that Israel plans to turn an interim autonomy arrangement into a permanent situation. The Israeli officials briefed Djerejian on the recent round of talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators. They said the Palestinians are insisting on discussing the issue of Jerusalem, the settlements, and the legislative authority of an autonomous Palestinian council.

'Ashrawi Says Unofficial Talks To Continue

TA1011172992 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Nov 92 pp 1, 15

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesman of the Palestinian delegation, has said that in the remaining period of the seventh round, the delegation will continue working to consolidate the terms of reference with regard to implementing Security Council Resolution 242, linking the transitional and final stage negotiations, and focusing on the issues of land, settlement, Jerusalem, and human rights.

'Ashrawi added that the Palestinian side will continue holding unofficial meetings with the Israeli side and will keep trying to explore the Israeli positions on the concepts of the transitional stage and land.

In a statement to the delegation's information center, 'Ashrawi affirmed that the Palestinian leadership decided to continue the unofficial meetings not only in order to obtain information from the Israeli side on some important issues but also to study the Israeli view closely and attempt to breach it and effect changes in it.

'Ashrawi said that in the coming period the Palestinian delegation will focus its efforts on establishing the geographical domain of the transitional government and linking the authority with land as an inseparable single unit.

'Ashrawi denied that any change will take place in the Palestinian negotiating strategy and affirmed that this strategy is based on international legitimacy and Palestinian rights. She said that there is a political decision by the Palestinian leadership in this respect and the Palestinian delegation is committed to this decision.

'Ashrawi said that the main points of disagreement between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations are about the terms of reference, the geographical domain, settlements, Jerusalem, powers, and legislative authorities. She said that the Israeli side has acknowledged some of the marginal legislative powers of the transitional government, but this is inadequate. 'Ashrawi noted that past rounds witnessed a struggle between Palestinian and Israeli wills over the foundations on which the talks are based. She said that the Palestinian delegation, through unofficial discussions, managed to impose the issue of land as a basic and important dimension in the talks.

'Ashrawi described the Israeli negotiating strategy as trying to deal with minor issues while circumventing substantive ones, in contrast to the Palestinian strategy, which tries to begin with basic and comprehensive issues and reach the minor ones through acknowledgment of the bases and principles. She said that the Israelis try to affect the content of negotiations by steering the talks to an inevitable outcome. This is rejected by the Palestinian side.

'Ashrawi denied that any substantive progress was achieved in the first part of this round. This is because the Israeli side was awaiting the results of the U.S. elections. She added that it is unlikely the second part of this round will witness any progress because the Israelis are waiting now to learn the shape of President Clinton's new administration.

'Ashrawi said that the Israelis are intentionally delaying the talks and are trying to exploit foreign political developments in the service of their negotiating tactics.

'Ashrawi said that under no circumstances will the Palestinian side accept procrastination and foot dragging by the Israeli side, and noted that the cosponsors should pressure Israel to force it to make real progress in the negotiations.

'Ashrawi said that during the meeting held yesterday between the two sides, the Palestinian delegation informed U.S. officials of the need for the U.S. sponsor to play a more active role in the negotiating process. She added that the Palestinian delegation called on the U.S. Administration to resume the dialogue with the PLO with the aim of giving a real momentum to the peace process and lifting the economic siege from the Palestinian people and their leadership.

'Ashrawi added that the Bush administration stressed that it will keep working intensively during the transitional phase to advance the peace process by all possible means. 'Ashrawi noted that the Palestinian delegation has held unofficial exploratory meetings with officials in the U.S. Democratic Party. She said that there are different conduits for dealing with the new Democratic administration, especially the human rights one. She added that many Democratic Party officials have expertise on the Palestinian problem and hold less biased positions than others.

On the meetings of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian delegation presented a comprehensive report to the Palestinian leadership on the details of the negotiating process and the proceedings of the first part of the seventh round. She added that the delegation members met with all PLO factions, including the opposition.

'Ashrawi said that the delegation relayed the Palestinian leadership's instructions and directives to the negotiating delegation. She added that those instructions fall within the framework of the PLO's political strategy.

Denies Differences Within Delegation

JN1111121792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi in Washington by 'Umar Zaydani; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] The situation in the talks now is very difficult. There are clearly Israeli attempts to exacerbate matters and intransigence, which have been very apparent since the start of the session of the day before yesterday, when the Israeli side categorically refused to deal with general information issues, particularly those relating to the land and settlements. These subjects were discussed by working groups in informal meetings. There was also an Israeli refusal to deal positively with any Palestinian (?request). The Israeli side yesterday frankly and unequivocally stated that it refuses to give any information or to negotiate over Jerusalem.

[Zaydani] But why do you return to these complicated issues, such as Jerusalem and the settlements? The impression was that negotiations have gone beyond these issues, and there are working subcommittees. Why did you return yesterday to raising issues such as human rights, Resolution 242, and the settlements?

['Ashrawi] We did not return to these issues. These issues have been on the agenda from the very beginning, and they are discussed all the time. We always insisted on the terms of reference issue and the human rights issues, which we ceaselessly raise every day to the Israeli side. Also during the informal talks, there has always been an insistence on obtaining information, which we have the right to obtain, relating to land and settlement activities. Since the day before yesterday, it became clear that the Israeli side is escalating matters by refusing to deal with these issues. The Palestinian side has not raised the issue of Jerusalem in such a direct manner. We demanded information on settlement activities, the confiscation of lands, the areas of land, the population, and so forth. Here the Israeli side's intransigence became obvious. It clearly and categorically stated that it will not give us any information and that Jerusalem is outside the context of the talks.

[Zaydani] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, there have recently been reports in the media and newspapers that there are differences within the Palestinian delegation.

['Ashrawi] First, these reports are absolutely untrue. I believe that it is not constructive to market these rumors and false information. The Palestinian side and the Palestinian delegation have an integrated, single position. Any position raised in formal and informal meetings is a position approved by all members of the delegation; it is also a position adopted by the Palestinian leadership and submitted in writing by the leadership.

[Zaydani] We ask this question because Yasir 'Arafat has corrected a statement made by Faruq Qaddumi to the effect that "self-rule is not in our dictionary." On that basis, they talk about differences within the leadership regarding the delegation's continuation with the bilateral talks.

['Ashrawi] This is true. Self-rule is not in our dictionary because we speak about a Palestinian transitional self-government and an interim phase to transfer power. Self-rule, in the sense used by Israel, has been rejected from the very beginning. We did not enter the negotiations for the sake of a limited self-rule for the people and not the land. We have said that we have come to negotiate on the basis of a letter of invitation and assurances, which talk about the transfer of power, ending occupation, and issues related to the election of a Palestinian self-government. There is no contradiction between the statement made by brother Abu- al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and that of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

[Zaydani] Hanan 'Ashrawi, thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Israel Quits Ottawa Talks as PNC Member Attends

TA1111194792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Israel's delegation to the multilateral committee on refugees, held in Canada, this evening quit the discussions and decided to return to Israel after it was made clear that the head of the Palestinian delegation attending the discussions of the committee is a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

The committee's deliberations started an hour ago after lengthy delays during which the United States and Canada tried and failed to find a solution to the crisis. Professor Shlomo Ben-'Ami, head of the Israeli delegation, is currently addressing a news conference in Ottawa, in which he has announced Israel's decision not to take part in the deliberations.

Jordanian Delegation Leaves for Talks in Canada

JN1111084092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] The Jordanian delegation to the refugees committee left Washington for Canada to attend the talks which will begin in Ottawa tomorrow, with the attendance of 28 countries.

Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, head of the Jordanian delegation to these talks, said that the Israeli side in this committee is trying to impose its terms on Palestinians who are attending the meetings and also on the issues under discussion, of which the most important is, of course, the right of return, in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 194 issued in 1948.

In an interview with the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY in Washington, Dr. al-'Anani said that the Jordanian side rejects such imposition. In other words, Resolution 194 is a basic and vital resolution, especially since Israel had to accept the concept of this resolution in order to gain recognition by the United Nations.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Union Presidential Council Meets

Mauritanian President Opens Meeting

LD1011205992 Nouakchott Mauritanian ORTM Television in Arabic 1825 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Speech by Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya at the opening session of the fifth Arab Maghreb Presidential Council meeting in the Nouakchott Conference Hall—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God's prayers on his noble prophet. Excellencies, distinguished people, Mr. Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen:

As I welcome you to the opening of the fifth session of the AMU Presidential Council in Nouakchott, I would like to express my gratitude and happiness that the whole Mauritanian people feels on the occasion of your arrival in this country, which is in fact yours, this country which is proud to meet you. You are most welcome to honor your families and relatives by staying among them.

Excellencies, if our hopes remain high, we are proud of the successes that we have achieved during the past period as the agreements endorsed during previous sessions were adopted. [passage omitted]

Additionally, our countries were able to establish a fruitful dialogue with similar groups in Africa, the EEC, and the states facing the western Mediterranean. Consequently, our union has become capable of playing a role in the consolidation and deepening of relations between North and South, which would enable us to provide an atmosphere of international peace and stability in the future.

Dear brothers, you are undoubtedly aware that the circumstances during which we achieved the mentioned achievements were circumstances that coincided with the ongoing international changes that affected the whole world. Inevitably, we had to shoulder the responsibility to defend the interests of our peoples so that the new world order would not have a negative effect on them.

Our awareness of the seriousness of the international situation forces us to continue our path for the construction and consolidation of the Union. We consider the AMU to be a step toward a comprehensive Arab unity. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, I wish you a happy visit in your country, Mauritania, and ask God Almighty to crown our deeds with success. God awards those whose achieve good deeds. God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Ali Kafi Addresses Opening Session

LD1011220492 Nouakchott Mauritanian ORTM Television in Arabic 1831 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Speech by Algerian Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi at opening of fifth Arab Maghreb Union summit in the Nouakchott Conference Hall—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency, President Maaouyia Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the Council Chairman:

It gives me pleasure to extend, on behalf of my brothers, the leaders and members of the delegations participating in the Maghreb summit, our thanks and profuse gratitude to you for your valuable speech.

My brothers, leaders of the Arab Maghreb, on behalf of you all, I warmly welcome Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, whom we receive as a leader and as a struggler for a sacred cause which is crucial to all Arabs from the Ocean to the Gulf. Welcome to you among us.

Your Excellency the president, gentleman and brothers, I am happy to participate, together with members of the Algerian delegation, in the proceedings of the fifth session of the AMU on the soil of the sisterly Islamic Republic of Mauritania, amid the hospitality of its people whom we fully respect and hold in great esteem.

Mr. President, building a cohesive Arab Maghreb of strong structure, where brotherhood, harmony, and solidarity reign, was and continues to be a great and noble target which we make every effort to achieve. In such an endeavor, we depart from profound faith in and comprehensive awareness of the inevitability of our people's common destiny, of the drastic changes taking place worldwide which have given emergence to a new political map and created scope for forming a changing world in which our countries cannot defend their interests or secure the status befitting them unless they harmonize their efforts, unite their will, and organize their cooperation, essentially and effectively, in politics, the economy and all fields which constitute our peoples' strong ties and our countries' higher interests.

The strategic, geographical, and political position of our region, and the changes taking place in the world make it necessary for us to invest this position for the benefit of peace, progress, prosperity and stability in this vital region of the world. The AMU has prepared since its creation a number of charters and set up a number of institutions and structures. The AMU members also agreed upon a series of treaties and agreements. All this constitutes a positive result in our march. However, these constituent and necessary gains have not all been translated into programs and projects on the action ground. We are called on to carry out an objective assessment of our march on the basis of our joint experience.

The Arab Maghreb cannot go on living on slogans, ideas, and traditional projects, or on some isolated initiatives. However, it requires coherent and effective action which would ensure continuity and perseverance for it before the conflicting poles which are vying for world domination.

In this context, there must be a strong and coherent Maghreban entity based upon a long-term strategy founded upon the vast possibilities we have, and upon the endeavor to build up a dynamic Maghreban personality capable of forcibly entering the battle of progress and dealing in a similar way with the environment [sentence as heard].

Events are following each other with intensity, the world is changing rapidly, and it is thus our duty to take the appropriate initiatives in order to launch a dynamic and tangible Maghreban action, especially in connection with the necessity of speeding up the implementation of joint projects which are within our reach and activating exchanges between our countries' institutions.

At a time when we are seeking to build the Arab Maghreb, we are aware of our Arab responsibilities, we take pride in our Arab-Islamic belonging [applause], and we contribute to confronting of the challengers facing the organization, the Arab region and the Islamic nation. The Palestinian cause and its repercussions remain in the forefront of these challenges [applause]. We declare once again our commitment to the national legitimate objectives of the Palestinian people [applause], and to the PLO, the legitimate representative of the fraternal people of Palestine [applause]. We express our great concern over what is occurring in the Arab Gulf, and the threats to its security and territories, and we urge the brothers to show patience and wisdom in resolving the issues existing between them.

We also call for the lifting of the pressure on the fraternal Iraqi people [long applause], and for enabling them to live in peace. Likewise, we warn against attempts to harm their national unity and territorial integrity [long applause].

No doubt, the sensitive issue preoccupying us as Maghrebans is the issue between fraternal Libya [applause], between fraternal Libya and the great western countries: America, Britain and France. Despite the complications of this issue, we hope for a quick and logical solution for it [applause], all the more so since Libya has expressed its readiness to respond to the UN resolutions and to what is imposed by international law and legitimacy.

Mr. Chairman, the development of the construction of the Arab Maghreb and its future is closely linked to its relations with its African, geographical, population-related and cultural environment, and particularly with its neighbors. Assuredly, the Arab Maghreb countries can contribute to the creation of a better climate for cooperation between themselves and neighboring countries, and likewise, to the invigoration of cooperation between the AMU and the African regional organizations.

Mr. President, at a time when we are working for the creation of conditions in a systematic and rational manner, and taking initiatives to build the Arab Maghreb and to consecrate this edifice at the level of ideas, institutions, and projects, we must pay attention to what is happening on the northern shore of the Mediterranean.

This attention is dictated by geographical and economic bonds, and the presence of a Maghreban expatriate community with profound influence on our human and cultural relations. There is no doubt that there is a mutual ambition for cooperation between the two sides which must be developed on foundations and principles which are not confined to economic and financial exchanges but rather extend to the optimal and integral development of our cultural and civil relations.

Mr. President, we have come for this meeting in your hospitable country, for which we wish all good, harboring a sincere desire to give an impetus to the common Maghreban action toward progress, and to strive to lift the barriers on its way, out of our firm conviction that the strength of our countries, the future of our people and the stability of the whole region depend on the effort which we exert and the success we score in building this great Maghreb, which was fused by religious, linguistic, and cultural bonds, and which has been the ambition of the aspirations of our people for liberation and emergence from backwardness.

Mr. President, once again, and in the name of my Maghreban brothers, I reiterate to you my thanks for the hospitality and the warm welcome accorded to us since our arrival in this good country. May God grant us success in our endeavor. Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you [applause].

'Arafat Speaks

LD1011213192 Nouakchott Mauritanian ORTM Television in Arabic 1847 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the opening session of the fifth Arab Maghreb Presidential Council meeting in the Nouakchott Conference Hall—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother President Maaouiya Ould Taya, O great struggler, brothers, Maghreb leaders, and presidents representing Arab aspirations for our Arab homeland:

You are, at this very moment, representing a stimulus which we very much need following the divisions, wounds, and other things brought about by the Gulf crisis for our Arab nation.

I thank you, Your Excellency the President, and I thank your hospitable people, the pure, noble, faithful, and mujahid people of Mauritania. [applause] I also thank my brothers, the Maghreb leaders, who invited me here. This is not an ordinary invitation because it depicts the warm welcome which the Arab Maghreb harbors for the Palestinian cause [applause], which is the first and foremost cause of Arabs. It is the cause of the first Qiblah [Jerusalem] and the third holiest shrines. That is why I have nothing else to say at this meeting except to say to you all: Thank you, thank you, and thank you, brothers. [applause]

I thank you in the name of every Palestinian child who is facing the Israeli tanks, Israeli repression, and Israeli occupation with holy stones. Thank you in the name of our blessed intifadah and in the name of our people.

I would like to reiterate to you here that we will keep our pledge and our oath. The blessed intifadah of our mujahid people will continue, wave after wave [applause], until the Palestinian Arab flag is hoisted on Jerusalem walls and in Jerusalem mosques and churches, making it the capital of the state of Palestine. [applause].

Yes, I thank you for this usual warm welcome, which gives the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people and its blessed intifadah not only regional support but a message from you to the whole world that the place of Palestine is in the hearts and minds of this region of the Arab world. In addition to all this, you also have an Arab responsibility: You have to restore—and you are the ones who can do it because you are far from the sensitivities in our Arab east and therefore able to reunite the Arab stance and restore Arab solidarity and Arab might. [sentence as heard] We are in dire need of this, given the new international order, which should not be allowed to be detrimental to our people and the future of our future generations, and to play a part in the new international order on equal footing for the sake of the future of humanity on this earth.

That is why, at this meeting, we see you as the holders of the Arab message to unite the Arab stance. Yes, we need a united Arab stance so that no one can carry out aggression against Libya, Abu Musa island, and the lesser and greater Tunb Islands, nor can anyone carry out aggression against the Iraqi people and the children of the Iraqi people. Nor can anyone continue in the aggression against the children and women of Palestine and the sanctities of Palestine.

I say this to you, God will be my witness. Surely we help our messengers and those who have believed in the present life and upon the day when the witnesses arise [Koranic verse].

Secretary General Speaks

LD1111004692 Nouakchott Mauritanian ORTM Television in Arabic 1855 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Speech by Mohamed Amamou, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union, at opening of fifth Maghreban summit in Nouakchott—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Chairman of the AMU Presidency Council; your excellencies members of the venerable Presidency Council; brother leader combatant Mr. President Yasir 'Arafat; excellencies, noble gathering:

I am honored and proud today to stand at this splendid gathering on the occasion of the fifth session of the Presidency Council in this hospitable Maghreban country, and to express the loftiest expressions of appreciation and extreme gratitude to His Majesty and their excellencies the members of the Presidency Council, and to express to them my deep thanks for the dear trust they had put in me by kindly appointing me secretary general of the AMU. [passage omitted]

The initiative by the venerable Council to assign the headquarters of the AMU bodies, including the General Secretariat, which was established later in Rabat thanks to the facilities provided by the Moroccan government, and your noble call for progress in the implementation of unionist programs and projects, on the basis of a rational methodology, which meets all the requirements of study and through examination, and stage-by-stage implementation, and takes into consideration self-capabilities and unionist priorities, is a clear affirmation by your venerable Council of the credibility of the Maghreban action in its capacity as a foundation for a long-term civil project, which does not accept setbacks or retreats, especially when it is surrounded by regional and international events which are occurring in quick succession, dominated by the logic of huge economic and human groups and blocs. [sentence as heard]

The correctly guided policy of the highest authority in the Union, thanks be to God, to give the apparatuses and institutions mentioned in the treaty setting up the AMU, one by one, more flexibility and ability to acclimatize with the realities in the field, the objective conditions of unionist action and the surrounding external factors, undoubtedly indicate the vitality of these institutions, which are capable of developing when the need arises. [passage omitted]

If the Maghreban action has lately witnessed a period of consolidation and deliberation in the steps taken, this is due to the nature of our aspirations themselves, to build a cohesive unionist edifice on the basis of sound methods and ways, and also due to this leadership's distinguished view stressing the need for interaction with internal and external objective factors, with prudence and discernment, while maintaining fundamentals based on solidarity and joint responsibility in order to preserve and consolidate the unionist gains on the basis that they constitute the focus of the hopes of the generations, the guide for their future, and the best guarantor of their common fate.

Your excellencies, the AMU General Secretariat and all AMU bodies together with our Maghreban peoples will salute your sound resolutions which are going to be adopted at this session and your valued consultations on the whole of Maghreban, Arab, and international topics as well as your sincere leadership to give the necessary impetus to the march of the AMU andd stress the soundness of Maghreban orientation, a matter which would enhance determination to continue the unionist march in accordance with your wise directives and good intention to make this union a coherent regional grouping working for the sake of the happiness of its fraternal peoples and contribute to peace, security, and stability. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Addresses Closing Session

LD1111232392 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the closing session of the Arab Maghreb Union summit in Nouakchott—live]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayer and peace be on the most honorable messenger of all messengers. Excellencies, secretary general, ladies and gentlemen:

As we conclude the proceedings of our fifth presidential session, it gives me great pleasure to turn to my dear brother, President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, and to the whole brotherly people of Mauritania, with my sincerest thanks and gratitude for the great warmth and hospitality they have shown us since we landed on this ancient soil. Throughout its history, this has been one of the great citadels of Arab-Islamic civilization, which carried the flag of our tolerant faith to the depths of the African continent and contributed to the construction of our AMU countries. [passage omitted]

Along the same vein, the AMU has been resilient because it responds to the aspirations of our peoples. Our meeting in sister Mauritania is but the confirmation of our common, profound conviction that the AMU represents a historical inevitability and a decisive option from which there is no turning back.

We are all being persistently called upon, in response to the aspirations of our peoples, to take a firm step toward putting the numerous agreements we have adopted into practice, to complete the installation of this Union's institutions, and to put at its service all the means necessary for those institutions to play a role in driving the AMU's joint action. [passage omitted]

The secretariat general should act as the engine of the Union's progress, following the model of some unions, similar to ours, that have covered a lot of ground toward integration and union. [passage omitted]

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the brotherly Libyan people are still suffering the impact of the international embargo. Our countries have made intensive efforts, individually and collectively, to find a peaceful solution to this issue, particularly since the Jamahiriyah expressed readiness to cooperate with the parties concerned in order to achieve the truth and dispel all the ambiguity surrounding it.

Departing from our solidarity with the brotherly Libyan people, Tunisia, alongside its sisters in the Arab Maghreb, will continue to put all its efforts into working for a contribution to a solution to this conflict in order to spare the region the dangers that could result from its escalation. [passage omitted expressing satisfaction at what has been achieved so far]

Taya Closes Summit

LD1111153692 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Speech by Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya at the closing session of the Arab Maghreb Union summit in Nouakchott—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. May God's prayers be upon his honorable prophet. Your excellencies, AMU secretary general, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me pleasure as we are closing the proceedings of our 5th session to renew my thanks and gratitude to you for the advanced decisions we have arrived at on the road of building the great AMU edifice. [passage omitted]

Your excellencies the audience, we have crossed important stages on the road which we have planned with our will, our sincere belief, and our deep consciousness of the collective responsibility, and the continued consultation and cooperation in the stances which serve the interest of the edifice and of our nation. I am confident that this will remain standing until we reach the aims and achieve the aspirations by God's power and might. [passage omitted]

In your name, I would also like to express my appreciation to His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali who will assume the Presidency of the Union, and I am confident that the period of his presidency will be an example for work and perseverance. [passage omitted]

Final Communique Issued

LD1111205592 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Nov 92

["Final Communique" read by Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine, chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) Ministerial Council, at the final session of the Fifth AMU Summit, held at the Mauritanian National Assembly Hall in Nouakchott—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: The final communique issued by the fifth ordinary session of the Presidential Council held in Nouakchott on 15 and 16 Jumada al-'Ula 1413 H., corresponding to 10 and 11 November 1992. In reply to the invitation of His Excellency [HE] President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and in conformity with Articles 4 and 5 of the treaty of the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], the fifth ordinary session of the AMU Presidential Council was held in Nouakchott on 15 and 16 Jumada al-'Ula 1413 H., corresponding to 10 and 11 November 1992, in the presence of HE President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; HE Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia; HE President Ali Kafi, president of the Higher State Council [HSC] of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; HE Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lambrani, representing His Majesty King Hassan II, king of the Kingdom of Morocco; and Mr. Muhammad Abd-al-Qasim al-Zawi, secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Rabat, representing HE Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

The council proceeded to tackle the agenda of its session and to review the progress achieved by the Maghreban action since the past summit session and its scope and it exchanged views and consultations concerning matters of common Maghreban interest.

The Maghreban action: progress in building the AMU building.

The council perused the report submitted to it by the Foreign Ministers' Council concerning the progress of the Maghreban action during the current session and the achievements made in building the Arab Maghreb Union, despite the subjective circumstances and external factors, which had engulfed this building process.

The council expressed its anxiousness to see all the organizations concerned with the joint Arab Maghreb continue their efforts in order to give the necessary impetus to its march and endow it with greater movement power so as to ensure the realization of the ambitions of the AMU's peoples and their legitimate hopes for the creation of a unified Maghreban space in which the citizens enjoy freedom of movement, ownership, and investment.

With regard to the progress in the implementation of the 15 Maghreban agreements and resolutions, the council has taken cognizance of the situation concerning these agreements, which are being complemented by the adoption of the constitutional and technical measures, thus ensuring their implementation, registering with satisfaction the implementation of the unified bilateral payments agreement among the Maghreban central banks since the fourth month of the current year.

The council also took cognizance of the results of the joint meetings held by the foreign ministers and other ministers and secretaries concerned with the Maghreban work and expressed its pleasure at the success of these meetings in overcoming the technical obstacles so as to make it possible to proceed forward in drawing up the executive programs and determining the priorities of the AMU's action within the framework of a clear method ensuring progress with studied and steady steps.

Within this framework, the council asked the specialized ministerial committee charged with economic and financial matters to adopt the necessary measures and arrangements pertaining to the proclamation of a free trade zone and the proper preparation for the other stages of the Maghreban strategy for joint development.

The council also took cognizance of what has been achieved in the field of placing the AMU bodies and institutions in their permanent headquarters. It expressed its pleasure at the establishment of the General Secretariat in its headquarters in Rabat and its embarkation on carrying its duties, stressing the need for bolstering this AMU institution to enable it to complete all its material and human components.

The council also acquainted itself with the practical arrangements being made to enable the remaining bodies and institutions of the Arab Maghreb Union to settle in their headquarters, affirming in this regard the importance of these bodies and institutions in view of the great contribution they make toward the realization of the Maghreban aspirations and the laying down of the foundation for a better future based on integration, unity and merger.

The council has issued the following resolutions:

—A resolution amending Articles 2 and 4 of the AMU Establishment Treaty pertaining to the rotation of the convocation of the Presidential Council.

—A resolution providing for the signing of the following Maghreban agreements: the Maghreban Charter on the Protection of the Environment and Constant Development; the Agreement on the Unified Judicial Organization among the AMU member countries; and the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation among the AMU member countries.

—A resolution determining the venues of the AMU bodies and institutions.

—A resolution appointing the AMU secretary general.

—A resolution endorsing the amendment of the bylaws of the Consultative Council.

—A resolution approving the agreements and the executive instructions prepared by the specialized ministerial committees, pertaining in particular to the Arab Maghreb for Cultural Excellence, the organization of public transactions and certificates of origin, and the unified system for qualification of the judicial schools, in addition to the regulations fixing the industrial and health conditions governing veterinary drugs and the importation of cattle.

Political consultation:

By way of supporting the tradition of dialogue and consultation, the council undertook an assessment of regional, Arab, African, and international conditions so as to coordinate positions, examine ways of highlighting the Union's efforts at all levels, and further Arab rights and the causes of world justice, development, and peace. The council lauded the current chairmanship's efforts to achieve those objectives.

Regarding the embargo and restrictions imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, as a consequence of the crisis between itself and some Western countries, the council, while recalling the communiques issued by the Union, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization, and while reiterating anew its condemnation of all forms of terrorism, expresses concern at the damage inflicted on the Libyan people and the other Maghreban peoples as a result of the embargo, and solidarity with the Jamahiriyah, and lauds the initiatives it has undertaken to comply with the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions in accordance with the provisions of international legitimacy.

In this context, the Presidential Council reiterates the Union's will to continue efforts to find a just, peaceful, and honorable solution to that crisis and calls on the UNSC to review its resolutions on the Jamahiriyah in a way that secures the lifting of the embargo imposed on it.

In the course of its review of conditions in the region, the Union denounced all forms of terrorism and extremism and stressed the need for cooperation and coordination among member-states in facing up to and containing this grave phenomenon that is alien to Maghreban society, civilization, and ancient traditions, which are marked by tolerance and solidarity. Considering that this phenomenon poses a threat to the stability of our society, its security, and democratic path, the council calls on all states to observe the principle of mutual respect of other states' sovereignty and security and to work for prohibiting exploitation of their territories or apparatuses by individuals or groups that seek to harm our society, its noble values, and tolerant faith.

The council reviewed the stages of the peace process in the Middle East. After listening to Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, and observing the lack of any significant progress achieved in the peace talks, it expressed its hope in intensifying the efforts with the aim of arriving at a peaceful and just solution to the Palestinian cause on the basis of guaranteeing the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, the creation of their independent state, and the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Holy Jerusalem.

The council also called on the two cosponsoring countries of these talks to work toward achieving tangible progress in accordance with the guarantees and conditions on which they started.

The council studied the deteriorating conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories due to the repressive measures that the Israeli occupation forces have not ceased to use against innocent civilians, expressed its continuous support for the intifadah of the courageous Palestinian people, and called on international consciousness to lift this suffering from a people struggling to restore its dignity, regain its usurped right, and determine its destiny in accordance with international legitimacy and the principles of human rights.

In connection with the Arab Gulf region, the council affirmed its preoccupation with the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people as a consequence of the international embargo that has caused incalculable damage to the children and old people because of the lack of the most basic needs of life and medical treatment. The council called for the lifting of this embargo and affirmed its commitment to the unity of Iraq's territory and its sovereignty over the entirety of its national land.

At the same time, it also announced the need to respect the independence of the sisterly State of Kuwait, its sovereignty, and the unity of its territories, and looks forward to all the countries' resumption of their customary contribution in consolidating Arab solidarity.

The council condemned the measures, which are incompatible with international agreements, to which Iran has resorted in changing the status of the island of Abu Musa belonging to the United Arab Emirates and expressed its support for the UAE's firm rights on the islands of Abu Musa, and Greater and Lesser Tunb. At the same time, it calls for a solution to these conflicts in accordance with the stipulations of the international conventions by peaceful means with the aim of sparing this region all sources of tension and channeling the efforts for cooperation on the basis of good-neighborliness and harmony.

The council expressed its deep preoccupation with the continuation of the civil war in fraternal Somalia and the aggravation of the tragedies accompanying it every day because of the fighting, the spread of famine, and the daily increase in the numbers of victims. It calls on the fraternal sides in Somalia to grant priority to wisdom and to put higher national interest over all considerations for the sake of guaranteeing the unity and independence of Somalia.

The council also insisted on the need for an intensification of UN humanitarian assistance at this crucial stage and for the laying down of an efficient plan that guarantees the arrival of this assistance to those who deserve it.

The council examined with great concern the situation in the former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the continuous suffering of their populations because of the aggression and the siege imposed on them by the Serb forces and the ethnic cleansing perpetrated by these forces against them, together with mass detention camps and extermination campaigns. While denouncing these savage acts, and expressing its sympathy with the peoples of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the council urges the United Nations and all the states that love good and peace to act for the lifting of the Serb siege and the guaranteeing of the arrival of assistance and the means of humanitarian aid to the besieged populations, and for the respect of the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and for the solving of the pending issues by peaceful means.

Concerning the strengthening of the relations of the Arab Maghreb Union with similar African groups in order to reinforce joint African action, and the affirmation of the belonging of the peoples of AMU to this continent, in consideration of the ties of history and civilization and the common fate, the council reiterated its preparedness to continue contacts with the Economic Community of West Africa with the aim of exploring ways of cooperation. The council, at the same time, stresses the determination of AMU to intensify its contacts with the other African communities in order to serve these objectives and in response to the various African preoccupations and concerns.

Out of its interest in the African issues and preoccupations, the council examined the situation prevailing in Liberia and Angola, and expressed its deep concern over what is happening in these two fraternal states in the form of bloody developments, and the council urged the parties to the conflicts in both of them to settle their disputes by peaceful means and to use potentials for development work. The council voiced its condemnation of South Africa's apartheid policy and expressed its hope that negotiations will continue between the concerned parties so that the apartheid system may be dismantled and replaced by a democratic regime representing the majority. The council also expressed its great interest in the development issues in Africa and the various challenges facing the development work in general due to the shortage of local resources and successive drought seasons, in addition to the increasing burden of indebtedness. It urged the international community to intensify efforts and mobilize assistance in order to back Africa's own efforts and realize the aspirations of our African peoples to development and progress.

Regarding dialogue between the Union and Western Europe's southern states, particularly within the framework of what is known as Five Plus Five, the council stressed the importance of continuing it in order to consolidate solidarity, security, and stability in the region given the close connection between their interests and the historical, civilizational, and commercial ties between their peoples within the framework of a common Mediterranean heritage.

In this respect, the council called for the continuation of action by joint expert groups to prepare for the summit meeting of Five Plus Five, which, it was agreed, would be held in Tunis at the earliest convenience. While pointing to relations between the Union and the EC, the council called for the continuation of the meetings of foreign ministers from the two communities in order to examine the best ways for laying down an advanced framework for cooperation, which should be based on partnership and should protect the interests of the Union and the achievements of our community residing in Europe in the light of future European requirements.

In this context, the Presidential Council stressed the importance of safeguarding the rights of the Maghreban community in the shadow of the great transformations in Europe and also the need for further supervision of that community and for preservation of its identity and authenticity. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Said Urging Jordan To Drop 'Agenda Agreement'

PM1011163992 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 3

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Palestinian Memorandum Demands Jordan Stop 'Agenda Agreement'"]

[Text] Tunis—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed Palestinian sources that the Palestinian delegation headed by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], head of the PLO Pan-Arab and International Affairs Department, which traveled to Jordan at a request from the Palestinian leadership, is carrying a memorandum to the Jordanian Government demanding that it stop implementing the agenda agreement with Israel. The memorandum contains numerous remarks about the recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement. The memorandum regards this agreement not as an agreement on the agenda but on a peace treaty framework on which the Palestinian side was not consulted despite the existence of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee and of a Jordanian-Palestinian action framework binding on both sides, which was signed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri before the Madrid conference.

Furthermore the Palestinian Central Council approved this framework at its meeting in October 1991.

This action framework stipulates the need for consultation and coordination between the two sides at the highest level.

The memorandum contained other remarks, the most important of which are as follows:

1. The Jordanian-Israeli agreement uses a number of terms used by the Israelis and rejected by the PLO, constantly referring to the Palestinian people by the word "Palestinians." The agreement stipulates mutual security pledges between the two sides in an agreed form, not in the form of an agenda. It defines the border between the two sides on the basis of the British Mandate border. It refers to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem not as territories under occupation in accordance with Resolution 242, but as territories under military rule—which means a Jordanian concession ignoring adherence to Resolution 242, which regards the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem as occupied territories. In addition, Israel does not regard post-annexation Jerusalem as an area under military rule but, rather, as Israel's capital and as being subject to civil laws.

2. The Jordanian-Israeli agreement regards the refugee problem as a bilateral issue to be agreed upon by the two sides in accordance with international law, that is, according to a general formula bypassing the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially Security Council Resolution 194, which emphasizes the refugees' right to return to their homeland and deals with this issue as a political issue.

The memorandum also stated that the PLO cannot authorize every Arab state to discuss the refugee issue bilaterally with Israel. It also recorded another remark about what was stipulated in the Jordanian-Israeli agreement regarding bilateral cooperation on the questions of water and the development of the Jordan Valley. According to the Palestinian memorandum, water is not subject to bilateral discussion between Jordan and Israel, since the Palestinian side is a sharer.

Furthermore the development of the Jordan Valley is not a bilateral question between the two sides. This is because the development of this valley also concerns the Palestinian side, since a large area of the Jordan Valley is situated in the Palestinian West Bank.

In addition to these remarks the memorandum demanded that Jordan stop implementing that agreement. And this issue will be discussed by the Palestinian delegation currently visiting Damascus to coordinate positions on that agreement.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, a meeting of the cordon states is being contemplated to discuss this issue, lest the recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement develop into a separate solution.

And the intention inside the Palestinian leadership is to call, after the conclusion of the second stage of the seventh round of negotiations, for enlarged Palestinian meetings at the level of Palestine National Council members and national figures with representative capacity in the occupied territories. They are being named in a joint meeting of the executive committee and the PNC speaker's office in consultation with the national leadership [of the intifadah] in the occupied territories.

And there is an intention to invite Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to attend these meetings.

PNC Official Criticizes Clinton's Comments on Jerusalem

NC1111132292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1126 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh has announced that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's statements on Jerusalem contradict all UN resolutions on the issue, resolutions approved by the United States itself. The U.S. President-elect recently said that Jerusalem must remain Israel's united and permanent capital and that the U.S. Embassy will be transferred to the city at the appropriate time.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Subayh added that UN resolutions, including Resolutions 626, 476, and 478, reject any change that Israel may carry out in Arab Jerusalem on the grounds that it is occupied territory. He said that the U.S. President-elect's remarks are astonishing to the Arab, Palestinian, and Islamic public and contradict pledges that the United States gave to the Palestinians in the current peace negotiations.

Subayh declared that the Jerusalem issue represents a red line for Palestinian and Arab negotiators that cannot be crossed. He said he hopes the U.S. President-elect will study this issue because such statements about the future of Jerusalem harm the peace negotiations and are not in harmony with the fact that the United States is a superpower that advocates a new world order and sponsors the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Envoy to Egypt Expects No Change in U.S. Policy

NC1011214392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2024 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador to Egypt, has said: We do not expect any change in the current U.S. policy on the Middle East peace process. President-elect Bill Clinton's foreign policy focuses on human rights; therefore, we look forward to his applying the rules of justice and equality to the Palestinians' rights in our homeland.

In a statement to MENA, he noted that the principle of achieving stability in the Middle East is a firm U.S. pattern and policy based on higher U.S. interests in this sensitive region of the world.

He pointed out that achieving this stability requires a just and durable peace securing the Palestinian people's rights and the rights of all the region's peoples without exception.

Hamas Statement Urges Resistance, Strike

JN1011183292 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement in which it calls for considering 19 November, which marks the anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaykh 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, a distinguished day of escalation. It also calls for considering 22 November a distinguished day of escalation to voice rejection of Resolution 242.

The Islamic Resistance Movement's statement also calls for using knives to resist settlers and for confronting the enemy soldiers on 25 and 27 November. It also calls for considering 29 November, which marks the anniversary of the issuance of the partition resolution, a day of general strike.

'Arafat Forbids Internecine Killings in Territories

TA1011152592 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat issued strict instructions yesterday banning anyone in the occupied territories—regardless of his status—from giving or implementing the orders to kill, kidnap, or threaten any person in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for whatever reason.

'Arafat Invites Territories' Figures for Talks

TA1011152392 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Nov 92 p 1

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Amman—Informed Palestinian sources have said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has invited Palestinian figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to meet with him next week in Tunis or Amman.

These sources said that 'Arafat will learn from those figures the reality of the situation in the occupied territories. He also will assess with them the peace process up until the time of the U.S. elections and the future of the current stage under the administration of President-elect Bill Clinton. Moreover, 'Arafat will discuss the internal situation in the occupied Arab territories in light of the stifling financial crisis from which the PLO's institutions are suffering, as well as the selection of municipal councils for Gaza and Khan Yunus.

Egypt

Mubarak Phones Clinton to Discuss Cooperation

NC1011191792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—This evening President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation with U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton during which Mubarak congratulated Clinton on his victory in the U.S. presidential elections.

Mubarak and Clinton discussed the shape of bilateral cooperation after Clinton assumes the U.S. presidency in January.

Arabs Urged To Take Stand on Clinton's Policies

NC1011122392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has said that it is an Arab duty to prepare a detailed record on the policies of U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton on regional issues. The paper asks the nations to hold talks among themselves "at the highest levels" to agree to support and strengthen all points from these policies that back their rights.

In a commentary in today's edition, the paper adds that the Arabs have to clarify any vagueness in the U.S. president-elect's policies on issues on which he has not expressed an opinion, such as the principle of land for peace—the basis for all negotiating activities. The paper notes Clinton's statement before his election that he will deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict from the perspective of it being a threat to Israel's security, describing it as a negative policy that indicates a premeditated bias.

AL-AHRAM said that in reality and logically, the point that needs to be made is that the Arab-Israeli conflict threatens regional peace. This conflict needs to be defused by recognizing all parties' equal rights, as stipulated by the UN resolutions and agreed upon by world conscience.

The paper concludes by saying that Clinton's recent statement that he will not change policy, his confirmation of the principles with which U.S. President George Bush's administration managed U.S. foreign policy, his declaration that he opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state but supports the Palestinian right to self-determination within the Camp David framework, and his readiness to dispatch former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to the region to continue his activities as a mediator for peace, should not lead Arabs to feel at ease or lose their concentration.

Israel's Peres To Arrive for Talks 15 Nov

NC1211104492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1002 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Cairo on Sunday, 15 November. During the visit, he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on Middle East developments, the Washington peace talks, and efforts to overcome obstacles blocking a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question.

New Israeli Envoy Presents Credentials, Comments

NC1011154292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1029 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received David Sultan, Israel's new ambassador in Cairo, who presented a copy of his credentials.

In a statement after the meeting, the Israeli ambassador expressed his optimism about Egyptian-Israeli relations and the peace process.

He said a positive atmosphere is heralding some progress in the peace talks.

On recent Israeli statements on not withdrawing from Lebanon and all of the Golan Heights, the Israeli ambassador said these statements are part of the talks.

Musa Reiterates 'Land-for-Peace' Stance

NC1011171492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1506 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reiterated that the Arab-Israeli negotiations will not succeed unless they are based on the land-for-peace principle and the inadmissibility of seizing territory by force, with all the parties' rights taken into account.

In statements today, Musa pointed out that the target is to reach a comprehensive and final settlement between Israel and the Arab states on the basis of which full peace in the Middle East can be established. Musa emphasized that the issue of Jerusalem must be subject to negotiation when the time comes, because in the final stages of negotiations, all the elements of the conflict must be placed on the negotiating table.

Musa said statements on the Middle East peace process are important and at the same time seek to promote the peace process and move things forward, regardless of the viewpoints expressed.

On the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Musa said the Islamic foreign ministers will discuss all its aspects during their meeting in Jeddah on 1 December.

Israeli Position at Peace Talks Viewed

NC1011154192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 10 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Comprehensive Solution is the Goal," AL-JUMHURIYAH writes in its editorial: Hours before the resumption of the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that a comprehensive solution, not unilateral solutions, needs to be found because the age of unilateral solutions has gone forever. The age of partial solutions has also gone. This was the reason for the preparatory process, the numerous and long contacts, and the overt and covert agreements that preceded the opening of the Madrid conference last October and which opened the door before the current bilateral talks in Washington and mutlilateral talks taking place in a number of capitals.

The paper writes that the public and correct position is the one determined by the foreign minister, which is that the bilateral talks' objective is a comprehensive solution. This practical and sound position is not being reciprocated by practical and sound positions from the opposite side to help move the process forward. On the contrary, the opposite is happening because many statements, words, and positions are being expressed that do not help. In fact, they could hamper the march and impede the wheel's from turning.

The paper adds: Before the multilateral talks start and discussions on the refugee issue begin, an Israeli negotiator has said that the right to repatriation should not be brought up during the negotiations. Willingly or not, he is forgetting that Israeli diplomacy has said before that everything is open to negotiation.

The paper wonders: Have these statements been blown away by the wind since the negotiations started on firm and agreed upon bases, namely, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338? The paper writes that it is well known that these two resolutions stipulate a comprehensive solution. This is what the foreign minister has deduced, contrary to what other sides see. We hope the Israelis have something to propose inside the negotiating halls, rather than making statements that do nothing but hamper the march and hinder a settlement, which believe will not be any party's interest.

Israeli 'True Intentions' in Talks Questioned

NC1011130192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0613 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—In their editorials today, AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH discussed the Arab-Israeli peace talks that resumed in Washington yesterday following Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential elections.

AL-AKHBAR condemned statements by Israeli officials on the eve of the new round of talks, saying that these statements cast a great deal of doubt on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's true intentions regarding participation in the talks.

The newspaper mentioned a proposal by Israeli Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit that Israel buy part of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. It also pointed out a statement by the head of the Israeli delegation negotiating with Lebanon in which he affirmed that the Israeli military presence in southern Lebanon is a nonnegotiable issue.

The newspaper questioned the relevance of Israeli participation in the peace talks in light of such statements, pointing out that the mere presence of an Israeli delegations in such talks is something that requires clarification and explanation. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Arafat Visits for High-Level Talks

NC1111102392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Tunis this morning on a visit to Egypt. He was received at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal,; Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah; and Muhammad Subayh, the Palestine National Council secretary.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the Palestinian president at the presidential office in Heliopolis at noon.

'Arafat Meeting With Mubarak

NC1111131292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a private round of talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at midday today. They were joined later by the members of the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations.

The Egyptian delegation included Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. Present on the Palestinian side were Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal and Fatah Representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat continued their discussions at a working dinner President Mubarak hosted for the Palestinian president and his delegation.

Musa Comments on Talks

NC1111153992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat dealt with the course of the negotiations currently taking place between Israel and the Arab sides in Washington. He said that the two leaders discussed the existing problems and obstacles facing the negotiations. The talks also touched on the situation in the region.

In a statement to the press after the two presidents met today, Musa said that the aim of the talks was to discuss all aspects and certain details of the negotiations, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and their relationship with developments in the negotiations of the other sides.

Musa was asked about U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's remarks concerning Jerusalem. He said: We are following up these statements and stands, noting that the President-elect still supports the peace process and a continued U.S. role as a sponsor of this process and he supports advancing the negotiations.

He added: This, however, does not prevent us from affirming that the Egyptian and Arab stand as well as the legal point of view on Jerusalem is that the permanent status of the city must be dealt with as one of the negotiations clauses. He said: As long as our talks revolve around the framework of Resolution 242, the negotiations must apply to everything that resulted from the 1967 war so we can reach a peace treaty that is based on the land for peace principle and guarantees the Palestinian people's rights.

Commenting on the Washington negotiations, Musa said that there is actually progress in some areas, but what counts is to guarantee progress in all areas and ensure that the negotiations continue.

Musa said that the two presidents also touched on the deteriorating situation in south Lebanon.

Asked whether the Palestinian side still has apprehensions over the possibility of concluding separate peace agreements with Israel, Musa said these apprehensions are general and exist on all sides. But as we agreed during the recent coordination conference in Amman, progress in any area should not disturb the other areas because it represents specific progress toward attaining the land for peace principle, the foreign minister concluded.

Musa Meets 'Arafat

NC1111191192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt; and Fatah Movement Representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah attended the meeting.

The conferees discussed developments in the Palestinian issue in light of the ongoing negotiations in Washington and coordination of the Egyptian-Palestinian stand to advance the peace efforts and find a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Comments on Consultations

NC1111220892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat for three and half hours today. Following the meeting, Musa said that he and President 'Arafat discussed the peace process, the current negotiations, and the situation in the occupied territories. Musa added that the talks are part of Egyptian-Palestinian coordination concerning the peace talks.

President 'Arafat said that his talks with Musa dealt with the same topics discussed earlier with President Husni Mubarak, namely, the situation in the occupied territories. 'Arafat said that the Palestinian people are suffering from Yitzhaq Rabin's iron fist policy and that daily crimes are being committed against children, women, and Islamic and Christian sacred sites. 'Arafat noted that he reviewed the bilateral and multilateral talks during his meetings with Egyptian officials today.

'Arafat on Talks With Mubarak

NC1211071992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The Egyptian-Palestinian talks will resume later today to discuss recent developments in the Middle East peace talks, the situation in the occupied territories, and Egyptian-Palestinian coordination for the coming rounds of peace talks. [passage omitted]

PLO president 'Arafat discussed the current peace efforts, saying that no progress has been achieved on the Palestinian side because the Israeli side rejects Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In addition, it does not recognize that these two resolutions apply to the occupied Palestinian territories, including the West Bank, Jerusalem, etc.

The Palestinian president said that while the Palestinians are talking about legislative elections based on agreements reached through the letter of assurances and U.S. President George Bush's initiative, the Israeli side is talking about general elections; that is, political elections to elect an administrative council.

'Arafat added that the letters of assurances and invitation clearly refer to the powers of the Palestinian self-government [al-hukumah al-dhatiyah] during the transitional stage. He said that all these ideas were discussed during his talks yesterday with President Husni

Mubarak. He added that they will be discussed in further detail with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

'Arafat discussed Jerusalem, saying that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine.

Musa, 'Arafat Resume Meetings

NC1211112792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in talks attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. Musa made a statement after the one-and-a-half-hour meeting, saying that the two resumed discussing developments on the Palestine question and efforts to push the peace process forward.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Makes 'Short Visit'

NC0411121092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, arrived in Cairo from Amman this morning on a short visit to Egypt.

He was met at the airport by Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamaly.

Official To Attend Meeting on Palestinian Refugees

NC0911120592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Ambassador Ahmad 'Uthman left Cairo for Canada this morning to attend a meeting of the [multilateral talks] working group on refugees, due to open on Wednesday. The meeting will discuss the problem of Palestinian refugees and their right to return to their homeland.

Moroccan King Said Seeking al-Asad-Rabin Meeting

NC0811173292 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 6 Nov 92 p 6

[Report by Sana' al-Sa'id: "The Important Topics Discussed During the Mubarak-Hassan II Talks and the Goals of His Tour of the Region"]

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak received his brother Moroccan King Hassan II at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace on Friday at the end of the king's regional tour, which took him to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Jordan, and Syria. The talks touched on regional issues and the peace process. President Mubarak was put fully in the picture regarding contacts made in this respect in order to benefit from his views on clearing the Arab atmosphere and promoting the peaceful process.

Commenting on the Moroccan king's visit, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told AL-MUSAWWAR that Egypt welcomes King Hassan and his tour of the Arab East, particularly during the current circumstances, which require exerting all efforts to promote Arab coordination and understanding. He praised Egyptian-Moroccan relations and described them as brotherly and deep-rooted. Moroccan diplomatic sources in Cairo told AL-MUSAWWAR that the tour is part of Morocco's pan-Arab role in the region.

The tour is important because it is the first by King Hassan to the Arab East since 1965. The goals of the Moroccan king's tour can be summed as an attempt to end inter-Arab differences and mend the rift that resulted from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent crisis which exhausted the capabilities and resources of the Arab world and placed it in a sea of inter-Arab differences. In this respect, King Hassan II is trying to bury the hatchet, starting with Saudi Arabia as a major party and gateway for beginning any clearing of the Arab atmosphere. Then comes the question of promoting the peace process, considering the need for Arab parties to present ideas, and holding side contacts to soften the stands of the various parties. Some sources have confirmed that mutual pledges soon will surface, including readiness by the Gulf countries to lift the economic boycott against Israel in exchange for Israel's flexibility toward the peace process. King Hassan II is seeking a meeting between [Syrian] President al-Asad and [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin, particularly after having become convinced that Israel will not withdraw from any part of the Golan without such a meeting. [passage omitted]

Statement Issued on Azerbaijani Delegation's Visit

NC1011121492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0846 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Egypt and Azerbaijan have confirmed their concern over strengthening bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, technical, and cultural fields.

This announcement came in a joint statement issued today at the conclusion of a four-day visit [as received] to Cairo by Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov and his delegation. During the visit, the group was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The two countries clarified that an agreement was reached to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The joint statement mentioned the international situation, saying that both nations welcomed strengthening the United Nations to protect international peace and security. It also praised UN efforts to help find peaceful means to solve international problems.

The two countries affirmed their desire to support positive changes in international relations and noted the extensive changes that have recently taken place in the international system.

Egypt and Azerbaijan also confirmed their support for current efforts to find?a just and permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1126 GMT on 10 November carries a Cairo-datelined report on the Azerbaijani foreign minister's departure, which says: "Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov and his accompanying delegation left Cairo at noon today following a three-day visit to Egypt."]

Minister Hands Mubarak Mauritian President's Note

NC1011172892 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Mauritian Foreign Minister Paul Berenger. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the Mauritian delegate to the OAU, and the Mauritian ambassador to Cairo attended the meeting.

Afterward the Mauritian foreign minister said he handed President Mubarak a message from the Mauritian president and that they discussed various issues concerning the upcoming OAU summit in Cairo.

The Mauritian foreign minister said he conveyed to President Mubarak Mauritius' desire for closer cooperation with Egypt.

MENA Reports 'Breakthrough' in Talks With IMF

NC0811110392 Cairo MENA in English 0856 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Washington, Nov 8 (MENA)—Talks underway between Egypt and the International Monetary Fund have made a big step forward and a breakthrough ahead for the upcoming negotiations on a new agreement between the two sides to replace the first one which was struck in May last year and expires on November 28, MENA learned from official sources here today.

The talks, being held at present by a technical Egyptian delegation with the fund's experts here have largely brought closer together the viewpoints of the two sides as to the evaluation of steps and measures implemented by Egypt within its economic structural adjustment programme.

The delegation, led by the Prime Minister's Economic Counsellor Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, presented, according to IMF sources, additional information to the fund's experts on some of the measures taken by Cairo to cut down the state budget deficit and thus tone down the actual effects resulting therefrom. These information, coupled with the recent positive steps taken by the Egyptian Government to encourage private sector investments, have paved the road to a great extent for the initiation of negotiation between Cairo and the IMF on the bases of the second agreement due to take effect within the two coming months, the sources added.

The Egyptian delegation, now here, will hold further talks with the fund's experts in the two following days to settle some pending issues on completing the implementation of the first agreement, IMF sources said. The two sides will later agree on a date for beginning the negotiations between them on the level of ministers and senior officials, either in the US capital here or in Cairo, with view to concluding the new agreement.

Fund officials had recently announced that it is not imperative for the new agreements to start at once after the expiry of the first one whose validity, they emphasized, could be extended for some time until the negotiations are completed.

Meanwhile, MENA learnt that continued contacts between officials in the Egyptian Government and the IMF had touched on some ideas being perused by both sides preliminary to striking the new prospective agreement.

IMF experts had made a suggestion for Egypt to start preparations for a reduction of the interest rate prevailing at present, now that the increase of this rate, made in accordance with the first agreement between Egypt and the fund, has yielded the fruits sought thereby, including cutting down the inflation rate which the fund's experts emphasize has come down to below 13 per cent by now.

IMF officials see it high time to set out, from now on, on a gradual decrease of the interest rate so as to boost investments, especially in long-term projects, something which leads in turn to realising the economic growth aspired for by Egypt.

It is understandable that the concluding of the prospective new agreement will not only open the road for Egypt to procure assistance from the international financial associations so as to continue its economic reform process. It will rather be conducive also to relieving Egypt of the second installment of its debts to the Paris Club countries which amount to 15 per cent of its total indebtedness.

German Tourists, Others Wounded in Bus Attack

NC1211122292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Qina, Upper Egypt (MENA)—A tourist bus was attacked with machine guns this morning near the Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahman al- Qina'i square in Qina. Seven tourists were wounded in the incident and were taken to a hospital for treatment. The culprits were on motorcycles when they opened fire on the bus. They escaped by car.

Security forces arrived at the scene and began searching for the culprits.

Official Gives Details

NC1211132492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1309 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Qina, 12 Nov (MENA)—Security agencies have arrested one of the culprits who attacked the tourist bus and injured seven German tourists near Qina today. The agencies are continuing their efforts to arrest the remainder of the culprits.

The culprit, who is an extremist, was detained with the weapon he used in the cirme. Security forces are conducting intensive investigations to find and detain his partners. Initial information indicates that six German tourists, including two ladies, and two Egyptians, the bus driver and a taxi driver who happened to be in the area, were injured.

Major General Mahmud 'Antar, assistant interior minister and Qina security director, told MENA that the injured women were taken by helicopter from the Qina central hospital to Cairo for treatment due to their serious condition. He said the rest of the injured are in good condition.

Maj. Gen. 'Antar said that 17 German tourists were on the tourist bus, which belongs to the al-'Adis Tourist Company, when it was attacked. The bus was traveling from Luxor to the Red Sea when the culprits intercepted it near Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Qinawi in Qina and opened automatic rifle fire. He said that a policeman in the area captured one of the culprits with his weapon before the latter fled the scene.

Authorities Identify Attackers

NC1211152692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Qina, 12 Nov (MENA)—A responsible Interior Ministry source has said that the suspect whom the security agencies arrested immediately following the tourist bus attack is Bastawi 'Abd-al- Hamid Abu-al-Majd Muhammad, 28, a student at Qina Trade School and an extremist group member. The source said the suspect was arrested carrying an automatic rifle and two magazines, one empty and the other containing 29 bullets.

The source stressed that security agencies have determined the identities of the remaining suspects. He disclosed that the four suspects, who belong to extremist groups, intercepted the tourist bus and fired at the tourists with automatic and locally made weapons.

The source said that at approximately 1000 today, a minibus carrying 17 German tourists to al-Ghardaqah passed through the eastern part of Qina, and when it arrived in the Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Qinawi area, four extremists intercepted it and fired at the tourists. The source said the attack injured five German tourists—three women and two men. The bus driver, who is Egyptian, and a pedestrian also were injured. All the injured were taken to Qina Hospital, most of them suffering flesh wounds. The public prosecution office is investigating the incident and the security agencies are continuing their intensive efforts to arrest the remaining suspects, who managed to escape.

Cruises Suspended Through Fundamentalist Areas

NC1111131392 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Report by David Daure]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Nov 9 (AFP)—The Egyptian authorities on Monday suspended Nile cruises through a region rocked by Muslim fundamentalist violence, tourist industry sources said. The official reason was the low water level on the river between the southern towns of Minya and Asyut, although the sources who requested anonymity believed the real reason was to protect tourists from attack.

The Egyptian authorities have been anxious to play down the threat posed by fundamentalists to the tourist industry, their biggest foreign currency earner.

Muslim fundamentalists have carried out a string of attacks against police, Christian Copts and Western tourists in the region since May. A British woman tourist was killed near Asyut last month. [passage omitted]

Tourism brought in 2.8 billion dollars last year thanks to a record three million visitors, in a sharp recovery from depression sparked by the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. Tourist industry sources said the decision to close the Minya-Asyut stretch of river effectively halted cruises between Cairo and Aswan in the far south.

Most of the thousands of tourists who take cruises each year make the trip between Luxor, famed for the Karnak temple and nearby Valley of the Kings, and Aswan, both of which lie south of the affected region.

But ten boats, each carrying between 100 and 150 passengers, make the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) 10-day journey between Cairo and Aswan throughout the year. These boats, which stop regularly, are easy prey for terrorists.

Three Egyptian workers on a cruise ship carrying 140 German tourists were wounded by shots fired from the bank of the river near Dayrut on October 1 and 10 Coptic pilgrims were wounded in an attack on November 1 in the region.

Police have reinforced their presence in Dayrut since July after violence flared up between Muslims and Copts. Some 1,000 are now deployed in the town.

They have also stepped up sea and land patrols in the Minya-Asyut region, which is outside the main tourist areas although Asyut is often a starting point for desert trips, in recent weeks.

Police cars are posted 20 kilometers (12 miles) apart on the road between the two towns and the authorities have also banned tourist buses from travelling in the area from dusk to dawn. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Take Action Against Violence

Eight Arrested in Sanabu

NC1011220192 Paris AFP in English 2127 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Nov 10 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities on Tuesday arrested eight Muslim fundamentalists for preparing explosives they allegedly planned to use against residents and police, the police said.

The suspects were arrested in Sanabu village, several kilometers (miles) from Dayrut in Asyut province, which is 400 kilometers (240 miles) south of Cairo, police said.

In bloody clashes in March and June, 12 Coptic Christians and three Moslem fundamentalists died in Sanabu.

Muslim fundamentalists and police in the city of Asyut battled each other with automatic weapons on Monday night, leaving as many as five people wounded and leading to the arrests of 18 fundamentalists.

A curfew was imposed on parts of the Nile city.

Shortly before the clashes an unidentified man hurled a home-made bomb into a police compound in Dayrut, hurting a policeman and a civilian.

More than 60 people, including a British tourist, have died since violence flared in the Asyut area, a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold, in March.

154 Arrested in Asyut

NC1111134792 Paris AFP in English 1338 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Nov 11 (AFP)—Security forces have arrested 154 Muslim fundamentalists suspected of plotting to attack police stations and other establishments in this troubled southern Egyptian city, police said Wednesday.

The arrests were made in a sweep through villages and communities of Asyut province on Tuesday and Wednesday. Police said members of the military wing of the underground al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] were rounded up.

Situation 'Stable' in Asyut

NC1111162092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Asyut, 11 Nov (MENA)—A responsible security source has denied a report by a foreign radio, citing its correspondent in Cairo, that a curfew has been imposed in a town in Asyut and its surrounding area. The source affirmed that life is proceeding normally and that calm prevails in the various areas of Asyut.

The source said that Asyut's security situation is stable and the security forces in some areas are there to emphasize security and stability and foil any extremist attempts to disturb the situation.

In a statement to MENA, the responsible security source mentioned the acts of violence in Asyut two days ago between some of the extremist groups and the police, saying that the security services are in complete control and all the elements who took part in these incidents have been arrested and referred to the prosecution, which ordered that they be held in custody for 15 days for questioning.

'Infighting' in Asyut Causes Casualties

NC1111183792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1727 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Asyut, 11 Nov (MENA)—Yahya 'Ali Mustafa al-'Ajrami, deputy leader of the extremist groups in Manfalut, died today when he was hit by two bullets in the head and chest during a shoot-out with other group members over internal disputes. Another extremist named Isma'il Sayyid Hasan was shot twice in the leg and was hospitalized.

A responsible security source said the incident reflects the existing disagreements among members of these extremist groups over acts of violence that are incompatible with Islam and victimize innocent people. The source asserted that the security authorities will confront these groups forcefully and decisively to establish security and safety and protect citizens' lives.

Fundamentalist Professors Protest Security Steps

NC0811175892 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Nov 8 (AFP)—Professors at Asyut University, a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold, on Sunday urged Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to lift measures taken by security personnel who have encircled the campus with 20 armored vehicles.

Eight-hundred professors, most belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood, and many students protested Saturday against "systematic searches" security forces have carried out against them for the past week.

Security was beefed up further on Friday when 20 armored vehicles took up positions around the university campus.

The professors later sent a message to Mubarak asking him to lift the security measures—which are to be extended to student union elections this week—and threatened to hold a sit-in on campus if their demand is not met within a week.

They also warned they may resort to a "vote of confidence" against the university rector who they say has forbidden fund- raising efforts for campus clubs. Rectors are named by the head of state, while faculty deans are appointed by the professors whose clubs wield considerable political clout.

Muhammad Sayyid Habib, the chairman of the professors' club and also head of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Asyut region, told AFP: "the police brushed aside a list of 160 candidates to replace it with another one with 30 students."

Asyut University, 440 kilometers (264 miles) south of Cairo, and its branches in Qina, Suhaj and Aswan, have about 44,000 students and 1,700 professors.

In Cairo, film posters presenting actresses and dancers in suggestive poses were smeared last week, ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine reported without identifying the culprits.

Fundamentalists advocating the wearing of veils by women and who denounce all artistic activities have long considered the posters and the performing arts as contrary to shari'ah, or Islamic law.

Second Round of Local Council Elections Held

NC1011194192 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] A second round of local council elections was held at 0800 today, involving runoff elections for the local councils in seven governorates as well as first-round elections that were postponed by court rulings in seven other governorates to allow new tickets and contestants to enter the local council race. Five parties are contesting the elections: The National Democratic Party, the al-Wafd Party, the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, and the Greens Party. Polling stations remained open until 1700 today, after which the vote-counting began.

'Dictatorial' Election Practices Criticized

NC0811190392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Nov 92 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] The ruling regime yesterday revealed its dictatorial character and its opposition to listening to opposite opinions in the popular local councils. The ballot stations were the death scene of democracy, thus emphasizing the ruling party's determination to monopolize power and continue pursuing totalitarianism and a one-party system. The National Democratic Party's [NDP] thugs and bullies spread out in all polling stations, forging and falsifying the ballots in favor of the regime's candidates and assaulting the opposition parties' candidates and representatives with knives and chains under the very eyes of the police. In some ballot stations in certain governorates, the situation escalated to the point of firing in the air to terrorize and scare people away, relying on the power and influence of the NDP leadership. Some governors participated in the funeral of democracy and blatantly intervened in favor of the NDP candidates.

One governor told the committee supervising the elections that the opposition lists must lose and the NDP lists win "by any means." Voters in some governorates were surprised not to find the lists of al-Wafd candidates on the ballots. The heads of the polling stations justified this farce by saying that it was decided by a higher state authority. The representatives of al-Wafd candidates were beaten up to force them to leave the polling stations, thus making rigging the elections in favor of the NDP easier. The farce reached its peak when the heads of some polling stations marked the ballots on behalf of illiterate voters. [passage omitted]

Yesterday's practices revealed the ruling regime's lies in claiming neutrality and fairness. Some ministries and government companies placed their capabilities and cars at the service of the ruling party's candidates for campaigning. Voters in factories were taken in the government cars to polling stations. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Amir Comments on Clinton Victory, Internal Issues

PM1011160392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

['Uthman al-'Umayr report: "Shaykh 'Isa Talks to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT About Clinton, Democracy, Summit Date, Consultative Council, and Cabinet Changes"—all quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Bahrain—Bahrain is the lung with which the Gulf regularly breathes, 600 square kilometers and 8,000 years of experience. [passage omitted]

There in the now severely cold nights discussions abound on the U.S. presidential elections, the significance of President-elect Bill Clinton's victory, the border crises, old and new Gulf issues, not forgetting Bahrain's domestic situation and the consultative council. [passage omitted]

All these issues were raised in the council of the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. Present were Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Al Khalifah, Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyid, Interior Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Dr. Halah al-'Umar, and colleague Nabil al-Hamar, chief editor of AL-AYYAM.

In reply to a question I asked him about the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit, Shaykh 'Isa said "We in Bahrain believe that the ordinary summit should be held on the date and place specified. We do not see any formula that is better than the GCC formula and we should stick to it. Just as we were responsible for the past, the idea, and the foundation of the GCC, we are also responsible for its future and should seek to give it a push forward."

Shaykh 'Isa added: "Any negative action between GCC states is a shock to us and should be overcome through our regular meetings and contacts. We look forward to seeing the council become a large picture of the bilateral relations between its members.... Look at our exemplary relations with the Saudis.... They stem from our appreciation of the King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his country's Gulf, Arab, and world policies and from our awareness of the strategic depth the Kingdom represents for the GCC. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah says: "We in the Gulf are in an enviable position because of what we enjoy in this region in terms of resources, stability, and growth possibilities. We must intensify our collective efforts to earn the world's respect for this region. We should depend on our own resources and concentrate on our relations with one another in order to become a cohesive force to be reckoned with.

I, for instance, wonder about the question of economic cooperation. How much of the cooperation agreement has been implemented and is being implemented?

If one or more members have reservations regarding some points in the agreement, then the rest of the states who believe it to be in their interest to implement the agreement should do so and give the others the chance to reconsider their circumstances until they can catch up with their brothers.

The prime minister adds: "We in the Gulf should not allow anyone to interfere in our affairs, including the superpowers. That is why we are carefully watching the ongoing attempts which might lead to the partition of Iraq and the loss of its unity.

We took a unified stand on the 1990 events. We believe that what happened then cannot be repeated. Interference in the affairs of others is rejected, and so are the attempts to partition or threaten the territorial integrity of any Arab country.

From the GCC and its preoccupations and its short and long corridors, to the Gulf's reaction to Bill Clinton's victory. There can be no doubt that the Gulf was doubly interested in the the U.S. elections, and the sympathy with the loser, President Bush, was noticeable for numerous understandable reasons.

Bahrain's comment, as its Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah said, was that Bush's defeat was a loss to the Arab world and the Gulf because of his attitude during his term of office and the way he tackled crises, especially the Gulf crisis and the Middle East crisis.

But we are dealing with a state of institutions. A change of president in the United States is an American affair. There can be no doubt that the economic situation and the domestic situation were matters of particular concern to the Americans, and that contributed to the election of the new president.

We do not believe there will be any change in the substance and broad outlines of U.S. foreign policy.

As regards relations between the United States and Bahrain, they span half a century and they are strong and will continue to grow and develop.

I said to Shaykh 'Isa: But some parties are saying that a U.S. Democratic president usually concentrates on issues different from those on which a Republican president concentrates, such as democracy and human rights.

Shaykh 'Isa said that "Just as the Americans are proud of their political situation and system, we in the Gulf also have our sustained system and traditions. Our system came, not from a vacuum, but from the principles which our peoples and leaderships formulated and which have lasted for generations. They are principles of consultation and acceptance of opposite views, in line with our genuine Arab values and traditions.

Discussion of domestic affairs in Bahrain dominates every council and meeting. It is the most debated issue in these circumstances. As an informed expert told me, "The issue of the hour is the consultative council and talk of cabinet changes. There is talk about lists and appointments. Some people concerned with the news have two lists, one naming the new ministers and the other listing the council names, but ministerial changes and appointments are matters for the amir of the country and the prime minister to decide."

That was true of what I heard when I addressed the question to Amir 'Isa and the prime minister. The prime minister did not deny change, but he regards that as an internal matter which occurs when the time is right for it. The amir of the country said that "That will take place in accordance with the general interest and in the framework of future change."

Let us take the consultative council and see what the Amir Shaykh 'Isa had to say about that: "We are serious about announcing the formation of a consultative council which will consist of appointed members from the sincere sons of this country. We hope it will consist of 30 members, and it will be announced very soon, as will the decrees on its jurisdiction." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Congratulates Clinton on Election Victory

LD1011212592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1905 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Jeddah, 10 Nov (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, today had a telephone conversation.

During this conversation, the beloved king renewed to His Excellency President-elect Clinton his congratulations on the trust the friendly American people have placed in him and wished him success in his contribution to bring about justice and peace in the Middle East region and all the regions of the world.

For his part, His Excellency President-elect Clinton hailed the strong historical relations existing between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also expressed his deep gratitude to the custodian of the two holy mosques for his sincere feelings toward him and toward the American people.

Clinton Warned To Shun Zionist Lobby

PM1011124192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Nov 92 p 17

[Editorial: "Clinton... Between the Welfare of the United States and the Welfare of Israel"]

[Text] The resignation of David Steiner—chairman of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, "AIPAC," the main Zionist pressure group in the United States—should not be generously overlooked by U.S. society.

Steiner did not resign because AIPAC had neglected its hectic activities, because it had disappointed its supporters by nominating a losing candidate, or because its budget is in the red.

No... he resigned because it had been revealed that AIPAC played a role much greater than its size. And because it succeeded to a point that struck the ordinary U.S. voter, who still innocently believes that his democratic system is still fine and thus he can—through his own will—put whomever he wants in the White House.

During his election campaign independent candidate Ross Perot strongly attacked the influence of the "lobbies"—in general—in Washington, expressing his fear that they might distort the democratic process. His position encountered widespread support from the voters, who have started to realize the danger of these lobbies' influence.

Steiner's story over the telephone, which led to the resignation, whether real or exaggerated, confirms an accomplished fact. Arab observers and officials knew it, which is why they were worried. In addition to their hope that the U.S. voters would realize their wish to choose freely, they hoped that the elected president would owe nothing to the "Zionist lobby."

Any Arab who knows anything about U.S. politics appreciates the size of that lobby and the scale of its greed.

Any Arab who listened to the words of President-elect Bill Clinton and his deputy, Al Gore, and who read their statements on the Arab-Israeli conflict will have a sensation of fear from the lack of balance in the view on this conflict. And indeed the imprints of the Zionist lobby—and its spearhead, AIPAC—were evident everywhere.

On the other hand "a disadvantage can sometimes prove useful" [Arabic proverb], and perhaps the president-elect and his deputy urgently need a scandal of this kind and on this scale to make clear to them the size of the forces of darkness and obscurantism and the abuse of influence in the corridors of U.S. politics.

The aim of Bill Clinton and Al Gore—both from rural southern states far from the known strongholds of the Zionist lobby based in the major cities—during the presidential election campaign was "to give the United

States back to its citizens." To invest in the citizen and protect U.S. interests...and adhere to human rights both at home and abroad.

And without doubt Clinton and Gore mean every word they said in this context. But the calculation of AIPAC and the Zionist organizations rallied around it does not align at any time or in any place with the welfare of the United States.

This is the reality of which we sincerely hope the president-elect and his deputy will be aware.

AIPAC's loyalty can never be absolute loyalty to the United States when it appoints itself a voice for another sovereign state, which is a UN member separated from it by oceans and seas.

But the most dangerous thing in AIPAC and its colleagues among U.S. Zionist organizations is that it has become so experienced in understanding the mechanism of the electoral political system that it has now the opportunity to tamper with political decisionmaking... from the top... from the source of decisionmaking, and to plant its men in the structure of the ruling establishment in order to divert it from focusing on the U.S. people's interests to focus on the parasitic Zionist interests, which have no regard for the people and their free will. In fact it imposed and continues to impose on every one of them a heavy political and material tax to support a state which by all legal standards is foreign to them.

This is why an event of such importance at this particular time can only be in the interests of the United States, the Bill Clinton administration, and all those who support right, justice, and true democracy.

While we welcome the exposure of this "conspiracy"—and it is indeed a conspiracy designed to steal the U.S. citizen's dreams, ambition, and will—and while we also welcome its timing, that is before Clinton has started to allocate jobs and responsibilities, and the clamor that accompanied it, we hope that the president-elect will adopt a courageous position and purge his administration of anyone who has dual loyalty, suspect intentions, and is not faithful to U.S. interests.

This is because we are confident that U.S. interests can only be achieved when it is faithful to the three slogans on the basis of which it was established, namely freedom, equality, and the pursuit of happiness.

Freedom is an absolute concept which is indivisible and does not discriminate between one people and another. And equality is a principle which rejects weighing by two scales. As for the pursuit of happiness, it is a right for every person who does not want to build his own happiness at the expense of others' suffering.

Yemen

Bomb Explosion Reported Near U.S. Embassy

NC1111072692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] A powerful bomb exploded near the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, the capital of Yemen. U.S. Embassy officials gave no explanation regarding the explosion, but Yemeni police announced that a time bomb exploded near the embassy building in Sanaa. No details have been reported on any casualties or damage caused by the explosion. This is the second time that a bomb has detonated near the U.S. Embassy there since the escalation of political violence in Yemen.

Opposition Calls Strike Over Election Postponement

LD1211115592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Yemeni Opposition Parties Call for General Strike in Protest at Postponement of General Elections"]

[Text] Aden—At the meeting held yesterday to discuss the situation in the country the Coordination and Follow-up Committee resulting from the Yemeni National Congress emphasized its rejection of an extension of the transitional period, which was supposed to end 22 November, thus rejecting the Presidential Council's recent decision to postpone the elections until 27 April.

An authoritative source on the committee told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that four decisions were adopted at the meeting to confront the Presidential Council's decision to postpone the elections. They are as follows:

—To convey a message through a mass march to the House of representatives (parliament) to dissolve itself on 21 November so as to end its constitutional legitimacy.

—To address a message to the institutions formed under the unity agreement, like the Presidential Council, the Council of Ministers, and the Consultative Council, whose constitutional powers end with the termination of the agreement on 21 November.

—To withdraw the Higher Election Committee members representing the opposition parties in the National Congress. There are five of them.

—To declare a general strike on 22 November.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Saqqaf, member of the Coordination and Follow-up Committee resulting from the National Congress, said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the National Congress committee was studying the possibility of taking two actions in addition to the four decisions adopted yesterday. The new actions involve organizing a sit-in in the House of Representatives hall and calling for civil disobedience to force the regime to end the transitional period on the original date.

Dr. al-Saqqaf revealed that the parties participating in the National Congress called for a compromise in order to get out of the present political crises and the upcoming constitutional vacuum. It involves the formation of a "national committee" composed of all the political parties and organizations to carry out more comprehensive tasks than the government; to replace the Presidential Council, the House of Representatives, and the Consultative Council; to take responsibility for running the country's affairs after the transitional period ends on 22 November; and to prepare for general parliamentary elections.

'Umar al-Jawi, leader of the Yemeni Unionist Grouping—one of the parties participating in the National Congress which reject the decision to postpone the elections until 27 April—said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the general strike still stands, and we will not abandon it." He added "we are against the postponement of the transitional period and we hold the present authorities responsible for extending the period and not taking measures over the past two years to hold general parliamentary elections."

An expanded meeting is expected to be held this morning comprising the Presidential Council, the House of Representative speaker, the prime minister, and leaders of political parties and organizations to discuss the conditions resulting from the postponement of the elections in addition to the parties' position on this postponement before issuing a political statement to officially announce the voting date and the reasons that led to the elections being postponed until 27 April.

Talabani Expects U.S. Stand To Remain Firm

NC1011211092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] On the occasion of the graduation of the first class of cadres of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the start of the second class, PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani delivered a speech in which he reiterated the task and duties of the party cadres and the need to be committed to modern values and the people's supreme interests. In his speech, brother Jalal Talabani dealt with the current situation on the local, regional, and international levels.

Reacting to the stand of the new U.S. Government under Bill Clinton on the Iraqi regime, brother Jalal Talabani said that the stand will remain firm because the U.S. Democratic Party is known for its tough position on dictatorial regimes.

Kurdish Leaders Call Turkish Attack 'Unjustified'

PM1011121992 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi report: "Barzani and Talabani Reject Interference in Iraqi Affairs"]

[Excerpts] London—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has again sought to reassure the Kurdish leadership that his country does not covet any Iraqi territory, that the Turkish forces' incursion into northern Iraq was temporary, and that these forces will withdraw after fulfilling their sole objective of securing Turkey's borders.

Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani told the official Turkish delegation which conveyed Demirel's message to them that they reject any interference in Iraq's internal affairs by any of the neighboring states. They reaffirmed the Kurdish leadership's interest in preserving Iraq's territorial integrity and called for the immediate withdrawal of the Turkish forces. They pointed out that Turkey's fears that Kurdish federalism would lead to the partition of Iraq were unjustified. [passage omitted]

A source well-informed on the Turkish-Kurdish talks has told AL-HAYAH that the two Kurdish leaders believe that the Turkish operation was unjustified and they emphasized that "it was wrong and detrimental politically and militarily." He pointed out that "through their large-scale military intervention, the Turks wanted to cover their failure to solve the Workers Party [PKK] problem by military means despite a war that has been continuing for eight years. They tried to give the impression that the Kurdish leadership was incapable of facing the PKK and forcing it to submit to its will, which it had managed to do in a matter of weeks." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Iraqi Kurdish officials announced yesterday that at least 2,500 PKK fighters had surrendered to the peshmerga forces, which began moving them to areas away from the borders with Turkey. Turkish forces, however, penetrated deep into the mountain areas around the Iraqi town of Zakho to cut off the fighters' escape routes.

Fadil Mirani, local official of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] in Dahuk, stated that 500 PKK fighters in that area have surrendered in the past 72 hours. He added that he "heard" that 2,000 more surrendered in Wadi Khakurk. He said that the fighting has almost died down. He rejected the Turkish figure of 1,800 dead in the battles. He saw that as propaganda. He said that the PKK's losses in the eastern sector were about 300 killed and double than number wounded, with 63 taken prisoner. He estimated the total number of the party's fighters in the border areas with Turkey at 5,000. [passage omitted]

Talabani Meets Turkish Commander

NC1011221492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] General (Hoag), commander of the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey—an air base used by the Western allied forces to confront any attack by the Iraqi regime against the citizens of Kurdistan—arrived in Shaqlawah yesterday. He was accompanied by Colonel Wilson and Col. (Roberts). They were received at the airport by brother (Husaq), member of the political bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and PUK officials.

PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani received Gen. (Hoag) and his delegation at PUK headquarters. The two sides discussed important issues, including the current situation in Kurdistan and the need to ensure the safe arrival of aid to the needy in Iraq's Kurdistan.

Patriotic Union Leader Rejects 'Pan-Kurdism'

PM1011144992 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 6 Nov 92 p 10

[Interview with Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Leader Jalal Talabani in Irbil, by Mirella Galletti; date not given]

[Excerpt] Irbil—[passage omitted] [Galletti] How did the problem with the PKK [Kurdish Workers' Party] on the Turkish-Iraqi border arise?

[Talabani] Many areas and 320 villages located on the border are controlled by the PKK, which is actually preventing the population from returning home. Also, the PKK has killed PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] and DPK-Iraq [Democratic Party of Kurdistan] Peshmergas and, acting as though it were boss in the area, it has refused to conform to the decisions made by Iraqi Kurdistan's government and parliament. The PKK is plotting against all the forces of Iraqi Kurdistan. We have good relations with all the Kurdish parties except for the PKK. We are trying to push them out of the area, in particular toward Iran, where they have said they are prepared to go. Their leader Abdullah Ocalan is a dictator, a megalomaniac.

[Galletti] There are rumors that Saddam Husayn is helping the PKK.

[Talabani] Saddam is plotting against the Iraqi Kurds using the PKK. By arming the PKK Saddam is attempting to block the road from Diwarbakir to Zakho, which is vital for our survival. The president may fan the flames, but we will not give up. We are not afraid. His aim is to stop our experiment. He incites the PKK against us and against our national rights.

[Galletti] And Turkey's role in this fratricidal conflict?

[Talabani] We do not want Turkish interference. It is our problem and we wish to solve it alone. We do not want Turkish planes bombing Iraqi Kurdistan. We appeal to Turkey for all types of humanitarian aid, but not for weapons.

[Galletti] What is your view of the Kurdish parliament's decision in favor of a Kurdistan within the framework of a federal state.?

[Talabani] Federation is a step toward the unification of Iraq.

[Galletti] In Ankara you met with Kurdish members of the Turkish National Assembly. Is coordination of action between Kurdish members of parliament in Turkey and Iraq on the cards?

[Talabani] There is no cooperation, and everyone pursues his own strategies. There is no form of pan-Kurdism whatsoever. Our relations are good but not official.

[Galletti] Last summer in Ankara you said that for Iraq's Kurds it would be better to join democratic Turkey than to remain with the confines of Iraq.

[Talabani] The newspapers misrepresented my speech, and I have clarified my position on several occasions. We must cooperate with our neighbors but the borders must not change.

[Galletti] In the May elections your party came a close second to DPK-Iraq, but it behaves as though it had won: The PUK has 50 seats in parliament just like the DPK; the prime minister belongs to the PUK, and you have also placed your men in the foreign and defense ministries.

[Talabani] The key ministries belong to both parties. The president of parliament is a DPK member, as is the deputy prime minister, who is also interior minister.

[Galletti] Is it possible to negotiate with Saddam?

[Talabani] No negotiations with Saddam are possible.

[Galletti] When you went to Baghdad in [word omitted—as published], you kissed him.

[Talabani] That was a mistake, as I later stated. But you also have to look at the context in which that meeting took place.

[Galletti] [DPK leader] Barzani talks of uniting the two parties.

[Talabani] When the time is right, anything is possible.

Opposition Figure on Meeting, Clinton Win

NC1011152792 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with prominent Iraqi opposition leader Nuri 'Abd-al-Raziq by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Mr. Nuri: Good morning and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

['Abd-al-Raziq] Good morning to you.

[Husayn] Mr. Nuri, as one of the leaders of the Iraqi opposition, could you inform us of the results of the Iraqi opposition meeting held recently in Salah ad Din?

['Abd-al-Raziq] Actually, the Salah ad Din meeting could be considered the most expanded meeting in the history of the Iraqi opposition, because it included most of the opposition factions. The objective was to formulate a general policy for the opposition, especially within the framework of the federation project approved by the Kurdish parliament last May. Another objective was to set out a general picture of Iraq post-Saddam Husayn. The meeting was distinguished by extensive discussions and an exchange of views, but the delegates reached agreement within the framework of a general strategy unifying the Iraqi opposition forces.

[Husayn] Mr. Nuri, could you inform us of the general features of this strategy that were agreed upon during the Iraqi opposition meeting in Salah ad Din?

['Abd-al-Raziq] First, on Iraq's future, there is full agreement that the government in Iraq must be democratic, pluralistic, and constitutional and that constitutional legitimacy must prevail in all its paragraphs and steps. Second, it was agreed that the best form for a relationship between the Iraqi Kurds and the rest of the Iraqi people—the Arab people in Iraq—lies in maintaining and safeguarding the unity of Iraq, as long as the Kurdish people enjoy a federal government amid Iraqi unity. The principle of federation was approved, but the rest of its articles, details, and regulations will be left for later, when there is a unified parliament that allows representatives of the Kurds and Arabs in Iraq to discuss such points. The basis remains, however, that all these steps fall within the framework of strengthening Iraq's unity and not harming it in any way. The Kurdish leaders and brothers affirmed their adherence to Iraqi unity. That unity is the common denominator agreed by all the opposition factions.

[Husayn] Mr. Nuri 'Abd-al-Raziq, one of the leaders of the Iraqi opposition, every now and then there are reports of differences between the Iraqi opposition leaderships. How do you evaluate these reports?

['Abd-al-Raziq] If you look at the cross-section of the Iraqi opposition, you notice that it represents a broad spectrum of Iraqi society with varying political and intellectual backgrounds. There are varying opinions in the proposals and in some cases even disagreements, but I can confirm that in years past and as a result of tragedies afflicting the Iraqi people, these differences have started diminishing in the face of the tragedy the Iraqi people have undergone. There is now an understanding of the proposals and solutions that might be acceptable to all the opposition groups or most of them. This is what happened when the Kurdish brothers proposed federation. At first there were some reactions to it, but when it was discussed and clarified, agreement on it was finally reached. It is not what people claimed it to be—harmful to Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and territory. It provides a formula for the Kurds to practice their rights within the framework of a unified Iraq.

[Husayn] Mr. Nuri 'Abd-al-Raziq, as you talk to us now on this radio, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his regime are rejoiicing over the change in the U.S. Administration following Bill Clinton's victory. Do you believe the policy of the alliance countries, particularly the United States, will change toward the Kurds after Bill Clinton assumes power?

['Abd-al-Raziq] I would like to say two things here. I believe the joy the Iraqi president and his regime have shown over the failure of Bush is more folkloric than real. If we follow the covert policy of the United States, we notice that during Bush's time, it has supported the Iraqi regime more than any other U.S. Administration has. This has been revealed by official documents released by Congress and other U.S. institutions. I believe Saddam put on a folkloric performance when Thatcher resigned and that this was reflected in his comments and other actions then. He looks for such occasions to make issues of them.

As for the U.S. Administration's stand on the Kurds, I believe there will be no change. The Iraqi opposition delegations that held talks in the United States during President Bush's time also held talks with President-elect Clinton's aides when he was running for the presidency. I believe the new U.S. Administration has a firm policy on the Kurds in Iraq.

[Husayn] Mr. Nuri 'Abd-al-Raziq, what do you think of the gloating displayed by Saddam Husayn and his regime toward Egypt after the earthquake that struck it last month?

['Abd-al-Raziq] I think it is really embarrassing. As Iraqis, we are embarrassed by this primitive way of reacting to this incident. I believe the Egyptian leadership and people saw with their own eyes the catastrophe that befell their own people, which is not something that should be gloated over. This is an embarrassing stand and every Iraqi is ashamed of the expressions of this one person.

[Husayn] Mr. Nuri 'Abd-al-Raziq, we thank you very much. Again, good morning.

['Abd-al-Raziq] Thank you.

IAO Withdraws from Iraqi Opposition Congress

NC1011171292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] The Islamic Action Organization [IAO] has decided to withdraw from the Iraqi opposition congress that met recently in Salah ad Din.

In a statement issued two days ago, the IAO said the recent formation of a leadership body does not represent the ambitions of the Iraqi people. It added that the formation of such a body would encourage partition and racism and would endanger Iraq's unity. The IAO declared its rejection of every decision and the congress outcome.

Kurdistan 'Prime Minister' Criticizes UN Relief

NC1011084492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] In an interview with the BBC, Kurdistan Prime Minister Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum has criticized the UN program to provide humanitarian aid to Kurdistan during winter. He said the $90 million assistance is too little too late. He warned that people may face death if supplies are not received soon, adding that roads will be impassable within three weeks.

SAIRI Leader Addresses Islamic Army Meeting

NC0611164292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1350 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, commander in chief of the Iraqi Islamic Armed Forces, opened a conference for forces cadres at the headquarters of our valiant Badr Forces at the end of last month. Al-Sayyid al-Hakim said such meetings are important to entrench the basic grounds of our jihad movement, belief in almighty God, and the various related aspects, such as commitment, appointment, belief, and charters.

The ayatollah discussed the effective role the Iraqi Islamic Armed Forces have played, especially during the past four months, going beyond preparing for military action to implement it on Iraq's noble land.

The Voice of the Iraqi Islamic Revolution radio, which reported the news, mentioned that al-Sayyid al-Hakim concluded by stressing the need to set out the appropriate and correct plans to realize the objective of winning over the Iraqi Army or neutralizing it, because it represents ability and power, which cannot be ignored, and because it stems from the people and responds to them.

The Army must also take the initiative to control things and not submit to the tyrant, who has exhausted and destroyed it in unjust and aggressive wars waged on neighboring countries and the sons of our mujahid Muslim people.

Daily: Clinton Should Learn From Bush's Mistakes

JN1011134392 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 10, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily today said that Bush's downfall was a lesson to every dictator in this world and an evidence for the defeat of the policy of aggression in this age.

The daily, organ of the Ministry of Defence, said that President-elect Bill Clinton should learn from Bush's mistakes that brought about crises inside the United States, pointing out that Bush had focussed policy on Iraq to commit the worst crimes in history against its people and ignored the domestic problems facing the American people.

The daily added that the world lost confidence in the United States and began to view with disdain the slogans it raised.

It stressed that Iraq harboured no grudge to any state or individual dealing with it with respect, because the policy Iraq adopted was based on firm principles.

The paper concluded that Bush had been defeated, and the Iraqis, under their national leadership, would continue their struggle for construction, until the final victory was achieved.

Syria Said Ready To Sign Agreement With Israel

JN1011205292 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In a public press statement, the Syrian foreign minister questioned the criticism that is being leveled at his government against the backdrop of a possible a separate agreement with the Zionist entity. He said: What if we sign an agreement with the Zionists six or seven months before others? Such a statement reflects Hafiz al-Asad's readiness to actually sign a separate agreement with the Zionist entity, even if such an agreement does not mean an immediate and full withdrawal from the Syrian heights. This statement also includes a great deal of deception. It supposes that there will be other Arab-Zionist agreements six or seven months later to settle the issue of the occupied Lebanese, Jordanian, and Palestinian territories.

However, we remind Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who was and continues to be interested in growing flowers and following the news of stars, of what happened in Camp David, when al-Sadat signed a separate agreement with the Zionist entity. Then, Syria was furious, and said that this measure will obstruct any comprehensive Arab solution. When Faruq al-Shar' himself signs a separate agreement with the Zionist entity [words indistinct] this measure will neutralize Syria and take it out of the (?circle) of the Arab-Zionist conflict [words indistinct] that Faruq al-Shar' ignores.

Shiite Troops Destroy Vehicle, Kill 'Mercenaries'

NC1011072092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1345 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] As part of the purging operations carried out by our victorious popular troops and their valiant fighters against the henchmen of the Saddamite regime, God's just sentence has been handed down against a number of Saddamite mercenaries who work in the regime's security, military, and partisan agencies. Details are as follows:

On 28 October, a struggling group of popular troops destroyed a military vehicle carrying eight members of Saddam's troops and killed them all, including a first lieutenant. The operation took place along the road linking the Turabah and (?Muraybah) areas in al-'Amarah Governorate. The popular troops also destroyed a military post set up by the regime along the road linking al-Kahla' and Qal'at Salih. The daring operation left all the mercenaries and companions stationed in the post dead.

May God bless the daring men of our victorious popular troops and guide their steps.

Shiite Radio Reports Operations Against Regime

NC1111172492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1340 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] In response to the terrorist actions carried out by the followers of hypocrite Saddam against our young men, a group of our rebellious people carried out a daring operation last week against one of the regime's most prominent devotees in al-Basrah Governorate, criminal 'Adil 'Abd-al-Majid al-Tikriti, a captain in the special security apparatus and a security official in the iron and steel plant in al-Basrah. After carrying out just punishment against this criminal, his body was thrown outside the plant. The coward 'Adil al-Tikriti executed 37 young men in al-Basrah during the popular uprising against dictator Saddam on the orders of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the tyrant's defense minister. He also personally stormed the homes of innocent people and led our young men to the 'Aflaqite prisons.

A few days ago, one of our victorious mujahidin groups attacked a group of criminal 'Aflaqites on a road leading to the al-'Amarah marshes. The task of Saddam's gang was to block the road and rob people. The men of the popular uprising killed three members of the gang, while the others fled, licking their wounds. After the operation, our zealous mujahidin returned safely to base.

A mujahidin group of the sons of rebellious Iraq attacked an 'Aflaqite vehicle on a road in the al-Tar region, in al-Nasiriyah Governorate. The mujahidin group sprayed the vehicle with bullets, killing an intelligence officer and three of his bodyguards.

The people's resistance against the tyrant's regime has recently intensified. In the past few days, popular groups stormed the 'Aflaqite prison in al-Fallujah, in al-Ramadi Governorate. This daring operation led to the freeing of more than 100 Sunni ulema. The outcast regime had detained these ulema for their extensive activity against reckless Saddam. They called for strengthening unity and ties between Shiites and Sunnis to stand against the 'Aflaqites, the enemies of the people and religion. The Sunni ulema also formed small military cells in the mosques in the governorates of Ninawa, Salah ad Din, and al-Ramadi to escalate the uprising against the regime.

UN Medical Aid Arrives; Health Situation Reported

JN0911151092 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 9, INA—A plane loaded with vaccines and other medical supplies arrived at al-Habbaniyah Airport on Thursday night, a UNICEF source told the English language newspaper 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER'.

The 750,000 dollar worth supplies represent the first batch of U.N. aid to Iraq in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed in New York some two weeks ago.

All items will be tested at the Ministry of Health's laboratories before being distributed throughout the country, namely Baghdad and Dahuk, the source added.

The vaccines are prepared for the first round of the national campaign for vaccinating Iraq children against measles due to start on November 23 by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Two more rounds of the national campaign will take place at the last week of December and of January, 1993.

The drive comes as fruit of the U.N. plan of action to be implemented for six months October 1992-March 1993 to help alleviate the impact of sanctions imposed on Iraq.

According to the U.N. programme, all Iraqi children under the age of five will be vaccinated against measles, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

A Ministry of Health source said UNICEF has promised to offer six million syringes to cover the campaign's three stages and another five million syringes for Iraq's hospitals and medical centres in addition to needles of BCG vaccines, two million doles of measles vaccine and other requirements needed to make the campaign a success.

The Ministry of Health urged unions, children's support societies, Iraq's Red Crescent Society and authorities concerned to do their utmost to support the campaign which is aimed at reducing infant mortality rate high recorded in Iraq after the imposition of the sanctions.

According to health statistics, Iraq suffers from an acute shortage of syringes as the Babylon syringe factory was destroyed by the U.S.-led war against Iraq, a thing that resulted in reusing the available syringes for more than one time in the Iraqi hospitals, thus causing health problems and blood transfer diseases.

The accord which has been agreed upon includes aid worth 200 million dollars to be distributed throughout the country.

Executive director of UNICEF, James Grant, who finalised the deal in Baghdad, believes the aid meets essential needs.

During his four-day visit to iraq, Mr Grant toured a number of northern provinces and traced high cases of measles in Mosul Province, the number of measles cases in Mosul increased from 14 in the first nine months of 1989 to 2,600 in 1992, he said.

He explained that UNICEF's concern for the health of children and their families is clearly reflected in the humanitarian programme of the new U.N. plan of action.

The U.N. plan also covers water purification, food, agriculture and education programmes.

Oil Minister Views Reserves, Energy Rationing

JN0911150792 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Nov 9, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister Mr Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq said the policy maintained by some OPEC member states, especially Iran, Saudi and Kuwait by increasing their oil production, contradict the organization's resolutions and interests. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi oil minister in other statements told a press conference here yesterday that Iraq was planning to increase its oil reserves and that serious work is underway in this regard.

The minister said "We have enough evidence boosting our expectation that Iraq's oil reserves will go up considerably during the forthcoming period and there will be very important figures in this respect".

The minister did not give figures and stopped short of elaborating on the government's plan in this respect.

Iraq has the world's second largest proven oil reserves which put it only next to Saudi Arabia.

The minister spoke about the coming first Iraqi energy conference (November 10-12), the first of its kind in the country, as the most important scientific conference in Iraq.

The conference aims at reaching formulas for the planning and rationalisation of energy consumption in support of the national economy.

The minister said Iraq has a huge proven oil reserve but this does not mean that people here use this source of energy in an irrational way.

Rationalisation, Mr al-Hiti said, means longer life for the country's oil and gas reserves and provides an opportunity to boost Iraq's exports of oil and gas, the main sources of energy production.

Iraq, the minister added, has to work for maintaining the world's reliance on oil as a source of energy generation by increasing the export of this source.

The minister proposed that commissions should be set up in every ministry in the country to check too much waste and unnecessary consumption of energy. "We can live a better life with less consumption and save energy either for industry or export", he stressed.

Mr al-Hiti said the growing demand for energy with oil and gas covering 96 per cent of world needs, makes it necessary to rationalise the consumption of energy.

He elaborated that it is regrettable to see that rationalisation of energy in industrialised countries is much better than that in the developing world, most of the projects set up by the developing countries are not based on rationalisation of energy consumption, the minister said.

Mr al-Hiti said energy issues are very sensitive for many countries of the world. Energy, he added, is one of the most vital issues for the industrialised world, including the imperialist states which seek to exploit the developing countries, deplete their energy sources and hamper these countries' use of their resources in a natural way. [passage indistinct]

Presidential Adviser Addresses Oil Conference

JN1011170392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Presidential Adviser Husayn Kamil Hasan has affirmed that the Kuwait events and the subsequent developments were among the chapters of a U.S. scheme to control world oil sources.

In a speech today inaugurating the first Iraqi oil conference, Hasan said that oil has acquired great importance and has begun to control the planning of international strategy, including the U.S. orientation to control the decisionmaking of Europe and Japan through controlling oil sources, given that oil is the basic source of energy, the lifeline of economy, and the activator of the machine of production.

After referring to the rising world oil consumption rates and to the world oil reserves, he said: Oil will be consumed within a period of not more than 40 years.

Husayn Kamil Hasan urged the oil sector's officials and experts, as well as the technicians of other energy sectors and those interested in the affairs of energy, to apply exceptional formulas to rationalize consumption with the aim of prolonging the life of the Iraqi oil reserve.

He said that the question of planning and rationalizing consumption in Iraq has future social and economic indications, foremost of which being the need to highlight our clear national vision of the importance of oil for our country and the need to prolong the life of our oil reserve for the longest period possible. He explained this material should be viewed as a national wealth in the sectors of industry, agriculture, and scientific and technical progress, rather than wasting this basic source of energy.

The adviser to the president of the republic stressed the need to expand the utilization of non-oil energy sources. He expressed happiness with the steps that have been undertaken to utilize waterfalls to generate hydroelectricity over the recent years. He said: It is a pleasure to see that the recent years have witnessed a growth in power generation. He indicated that in 1990, hydroelectricity contributed to approximately 19 percent of the country's overall power energy, and that it is expected to rise to 25 percent in the future.

Ministers, ministry under secretaries, and energy experts attended the inauguration of the conference, which will discuss 62 research papers and scientific studies in the field of energy and oil. They will deal with four basic subjects. The first subject covers oil sources. It will discuss the available energy sources—oil, natural gas, water power, solar energy, wind energy, and other more economical alternatives in Iraq. The second subject deals with economic statistics with the aim of scrutinizing the consumption of energy in economic activities in Iraq. The third subject covers energy systems at factories and major buildings, efficiency studies, and domestic comparisons. The fourth subject deals with technological industrialization, which covers a number of research papers and studies that aim to improve the efficiency of domestic and imported equipment's consumption of energy, in addition to scientific and applied research papers and technological inventions in the field of rationalizing the consumption of energy.

Military Tension Continues on Border With Lebanon

IDF Continues Moving Troops Northward

TA1011192392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Report by military correspondent Beni Liss "received a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Excerpt] This footage was taken a short while ago on roads in northern Israel. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is moving forces forward to the northern border. To facilitate heavy vehicle traffic, Military Police and Israel Police are deployed at road junctions. The IDF troops are alert and prepared for the coming night. [passage omitted]

No Forces North of Security Zone

TA1111171292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Report by military affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] If quiet is not maintained on our northern border, south Lebanon will have no quiet either. This was announced by military sources a short while ago. In the current situation, towns along the northern border will be unable to function. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is on an alert, ready to carry out a variety of modulated and controllable actions [mikhlol pe'ulot mevuqarot venishlatot]. The IDF will make the most of any task it is charged with, the military sources say.

The sources add that a one-fell-swoop action will not change the situation in the north significantly. They noted that a diversity of controlled measures is required against Hizballah. As soon as such measures are approved and assigned to the IDF, the Army will carry them out.

The military sources noted that at this time, all the forces needed to meet the tasks on which the political echelons may decide are concentrated in the north. According to the sources, there are no IDF forces whatsoever north of the security zone at this time.

The sources noted, however, that the battle against Hizballah terrorism will be prolonged. A source stressed that this past week that Hizballah has simply changed its policy and the parameters governing its activities and reactions to Israeli attacks on their targets. They noted that the situation in the north has undergone a tangible change, and what is needed is—per the newly coined military term—a variety of modulated and controllable actions against Hizballah.

'Tense Quiet' After Air Force Raid

TA1211052392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] There was a tense quiet in northern border settlements and along the border last night following the Air Force raid in south Lebanon. The inhabitants of the northern settlements spent the night in shelters. Life is returning to normal this morning.

Air Force planes last night attacked Hizballah targets in the village of Siddiqin in the western sector of south Lebanon. All our planes returned safely. A structure that served Hizballah as a base from which to depart for attacks was hit. Reporters say that there were no casualties.

Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv report that the chief of staff visited Qiryat Shemona last night and also met with soldiers on the northern border.

Artillery in Security Zone Tripled

TA1211121592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Officers with UNIFIL, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, report that Israel has tripled the number of its long-range artillery pieces in the security zone, bringing the total number of 175-mm and 155-mm guns to 64.

Officials React to Situation in Southern Lebanon

Special 'Preparedness' Needed

TA1011190392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel will continue to protest against the Katyusha attacks at the peace talks in Washington. But leaving the Knesset this evening, the foreign minister said that the negotiations will not be stopped. He was speaking to reporter David Ze'ev, who asked the foreign minister if Israel is considering going into Lebanon:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Well, I think what happened in Lebanon is a very demanding situation, and the provocations, as well as the attacks upon the northern part of Israel, do call for special awareness and preparedness—and that is what we are doing.

[Ze'ev] Is it a show of force, or is Israel willing, ready to act as well?

[Peres] It is neither a show of force nor anything else. But we are taking the necessary steps which are needed for the defense of the northern part of the country.

[Ze'ev] Just one more question: At the peace talks, Israel has become a bit tougher. Yesterday you walked out of the Lebanese discussions. Will this continue?

[Peres] Yes, we shall continue to talk.

[Ze'ev] To talk, and also to threaten?

[Peres] When it will be necessary, we shall react to the provocations; to the shelling of the Katyushas. But otherwise, talks will be continued. [end recording]

'Full Force' Threatened

TA1111053192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] In consultations held in Jerusalem last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was empowered to take all actions he deems proper, including military measures, to restore calm to the northern border. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin discussed the issue last night with the chief of staff and with other senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders.

The consultations continued into the wee hours of the night. Israel has asserted that it will not hold itself in check for long if there is no calm on its side of the border. Quiet prevailed overnight in the northern border and the settlements along it, although tension and alertness remain high.

The IDF continues to reinforce its troops along the northern border. Convoys of tanks, self-propelled guns, and armored personnel carriers have been moving into Lebanon. Senior IDF sources have said that, if Lebanon and Syria do not see to it that the Katyusha attacks stop, the IDF will take all possible action, and, if need be, use full force. The United States has sent messages to all the sides urging restraint.

Peres Promises To Take 'All Measures'

TA1111105492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gil Litman "a short time ago"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] Mr. Foreign Minister, do you not have a slight feeling of deja vu in relation with the situation 10 years ago, on the eve of the Lebanon war?

[Peres] No, I believe that the situation then was totally different. The main problem at that time was the Palestinian and PLO involvement. Today, on the other hand, we are dealing with Hizballah, which is a smaller group with different characteristics and which is more interspersed with the local population. Our actions should be adapted to the new circumstances.

[Litman] Is there no fear that the peace process might be affected, particularly the talks with the Syrians?

[Peres] No, I do not believe so. I believe that neither the Arabs nor the Israelis will hand responsibility for the peace talks over to Hizballah; that is nonsense. Proper action should be taken against Hizballah, while the peace process must be conducted between the sides interested in peace—and that we will do.

[Litman] Do you believe that the Syrians, who control the northern and central sectors of Lebanon, can be blamed for being at least partially responsible for Hizballah's activities?

[Peres] Hizballah receives its instructions from Iran, but the Syrians definitely have effective means to influence, and perhaps even to prevent, Hizballah's rampage. I believe that the Syrians must be expected and urged to do that.

[Litman] Sir, could you tell us what options there are at the moment concerning the situation in Lebanon? Which one of them do you believe is the most likely to happen?

[Peres] There is only one option: to take all measures to halt terror and to defend the State of Israel—and we will exercise this option.

[Litman] Thank you very much.

Expansion of Security Zone Urged

TA1211052692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon has called for the expansion of the security zone in Lebanon thereby removing Israelis in the north from Katyusha firing range. Sharon blamed the current situation on the decision by the Peres-Rabin government in 1985 to pull back from the al-Awwali River. He said any withdrawals of Israeli troops at that time were political acts meant to undermine the achievements of the Likud government.

Talks Separate From Response

TA1111113992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur stated a short time ago in the Knesset that the peace process has no bearing whatsoever on the intensity of Israel's response to acts of terror in the territories and in Lebanon. He noted that the government retains the right to decide how and when to act. We will use our full force against terror, Gur said, and at the same time we will make an effort to complete the peace process. Our Knesset correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the deputy defense minister made these remarks in reply to queries by Knesset Members Moshe Peled of Tzomet and 'Ovadya 'Eli of the Likud.

Gur went on to say that in view of the growing use of firearms by terrorists in the territories, the Israel Defense Forces has more narrowly defined the rules of engagement in life-threatening situations. These rules now stipulate that it is permitted and necessary to open fire in such situations.

EC Concerned Over South Lebanon Situation

TA1211061592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] EC representatives warned Syria and Lebanon against an escalation of tension along the northern border. In Jerusalem, EC representatives conferred last night with Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas and expressed concern about the situation in south Lebanon. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir notes the difference between the wording of the EC statements to the two sides: While they warned the governments in Beirut and Damascus, in Jerusalem they expressed concern.

Official Briefs EC Envoys

TA1211120992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The director general of the Foreign Ministry, Yosef Hadas, says Israel will do all that is necessary to protect its civilians on the northern border. He was speaking yesterday to the ambassadors of the EC troika—Portugal, Britain, and Denmark—and the representative of the European Community. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Hadas a short while ago if the Europeans asked Israel to cease military operations in Lebanon.

[Begin recording] [Hadas] While Europeans really urged and even more than urged, very seriously, the Syrian and Lebanese Governments to bring, you know, for a stop of shelling Israel from the side of Hizballah, they only asked Israel to take into consideration some restraint, understanding the Israeli position.

[Katzenell] What did you say? Did you agree to their request?

[Hadas] What we said in a way, to give it in a short sentence, is that Israel will continue with the peace talks as if terrorist attacks, violence attacks, rocket launchings against it were not there. At the same time, it will react to the violent attacks and to rocket launchings as if peace negotiations were not there.

[Katzenell] Were you able to offer the Europeans any encouragement about the situation on the northern border?

[Hadas] I said that the Israeli authorities will continue to assume full responsibility for security of the population in Israel.

[Katzenell] Can I ask you if the foreign minister is going to Egypt next week because he is worried about the incident in Ottawa when the PLO Palestine National Council representative turned up?

[Hadas] Not at all, he was invited by Mr. 'Amr Musa, the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs, and he decided to respond positively. There are ongoing consultations now between us and Egypt, but the invitation was extended before what happened in Ottawa. But certainly it's a subject that is going to be raised there.

[Katzenell] Does Israel expect that Egypt can help to remove the obstacles also in the bilateral talks?

[Hadas] Well, we will wait. We hope Egypt will use its influence to promote the peace process in both tracks. [end recording]

Restraint in Lebanon Encouraged

TA1211111292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Nov 92 p B1

[Editorial: "Exemplary Crisis Management"]

[Text] Israelis in the north spent Monday night in bomb shelters, unbothered by Hizballah. The latter again fired a few mortar shells and Katyusha rockets early Tuesday morning, but did not fire any later that night. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] responded to the rockets and shells with artillery fire, but stopped around noon. One could venture an assessment yesterday that the critical hours of the crisis were over for the moment.

Although this is a very risky assessment, the impression yesterday was that Hizballah (or the Syrians, or both) had reached the conclusion that additional katyusha attacks might undermine the intention of the Israeli prime minister and the ministers he habitually consults on security matters to prevent a flare-up in south Lebanon. That is why Hizballah held its fire, and why the attack early Tuesday morning should be considered less significant seeing that there was no follow-up.

The Israelis in charge apparently also wanted to curb a process which seemed destined to deteriorate dangerously. Otherwise, there is no explaining the fact that in response to the attack on Tuesday the IDF sufficed with a few hours of artillery fire and then locked its guns. The armored troop reinforcements rushed to the north deployed inside the security zone, but the order to advance was not issued.

Most probably, the conspicuous move of IDF troops to the north affected and deterred Hizballah (and even more so the Syrians) because of the danger entailed in a confrontation with the IDF. The pleas of the U.S. Administration evidently reinforced this deterrent effect, and Israel's show of muscle must have strengthened the U.S. diplomatic effort. The aversion from a confrontation helped Yitzhaq Rabin (who approved or even initiated the show of force) to halt it at a point beyond which we would have engaged in real combat.

Israeli officials warned Hizballah and the Syrians time and again, leaving no doubt that Israel did not have in mind a confrontation outside the northern boundary of the security zone. Today, too, the question remains whether the two Air Force raids on Sunday (which provided Hizballah with an excuse to fire Katyushas at the Galilee Panhandle and the western Galilee) were necessary. However, there is no doubt that the Israeli leadership is not spoiling for a fight and that it is actually interested in peace with Syria. That is why the Israeli delegation continues the bilateral talks with the Syrians in Washington and does not want the incidents with Hizballah to hinder progress in these negotiations.

What troubles us is Syria's sponsorship of the Iran-inspired terror organization. This may be due to Syria's interest not to lose Iran's support in its dispute with Iraq, but that is no reason to ask Israel to put up with Katyusha attacks on Qiryat Shemona and other locations. In fact, Israel has for years allowed the Syrians to control the Beirut government and the whole of Lebanon. In exchange, Israel is entitled to demand from the Damascus government not to give Hizballah a free rein to attack its citizens.

The Rabin government does not covet Lebanese territory and has shown its will and ability to exercise self-restraint. At the same time, it must protect the state and its civilian population and it should not be asked to let the Galilee become what the Sharon area and the Negev were in the 1950's.

Peres on Peace Process, Trip to Egypt

TA1211102392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Good morning Foreign Minister Peres. You are going to Cairo Sunday.

[Peres] That is right.

[Barqay] Did the Egyptians trick us in Ottawa?

[Peres] No, I do not think so. I think it is the Palestinians who are pulling the wool over everybody's eyes.

[Barqay] What was the agreement reached with Egypt?

[Peres] The agreement with the Egyptians was that members of the Palestine National Council would not attend the talks.

[Barqay] And that agreement was violated by the Palestinians.

[Peres] Yes, they upheld it in Paris, and violated it in the Ottawa meeting.

[Barqay] Is what you are saying acceptable to the Egyptians, who mediated the issue?

[Peres] Mr. 'Amr Musa and I were in contact and there definitely is an understanding between us. He says that the Palestinians also understand that, but that the instructions apparently did not trickle down into the field.

[Barqay] There is a feeling not only in Ottawa, but also in other places, even in Washington, that due to the security situation here, something is happening in the peace talks, that they are not being conducted as they should be. Is that true?

[Peres] I am not certain that it is due to the security situation here. Each side has to take into account that peace negotiations are being conducted while we have a security situation where forces opposing peace are trying to disturb those negotiations. None of us is a naive child and none of us is ready to permit Hizballah to conduct the peace process in our place. There is, however, a hardening in the Palestinian position, and in my view it derives, to a large degree, from certain moods in Tunisia.

[Barqay] People like us, who are not in the know about the ties between Iran and Hizballah or Damascus and Hizballah, do not know what address we, the Israeli Government, holds responsible. Is Damascus or Iran responsible for Hizballah activity?

[Peres] To the best of my knowledge, Hizballah is subservient to Iran from a religious, operational, and ideological viewpoint. It also provides it with arms, money, etc. These arms also cross Syria, however, and it can prevent their transfer. In addition, as we know, Syria has a very strong influence on what is happening in Lebanon. It is almost running the show in Lebanon, if not more than that, and therefore it can employ preventive measures there as well. We are not certain that the Syrians are using all the preventive measures they can or should take.

[Barqay] Then why should we not go to the Syrians in Washington and before doing anything else, tell them: Our condition for the continuation of the talks is that you cease supporting Hizballah and permitting the transfer of arms?

[Peres] You must not present conditions to anybody because if you do you hand over the negotiations to Hizballah. The Syrians will not admit what I am saying. To accept the condition you have presented would mean that the Syrians have to admit that the situation as I have described it is accurate. They do not admit to it at all. That means that what you suggest is giving Hizballah veto power over the negotiations. There is nothing more stupid.

[Barqay] What I suggest, and I am just saying what we have been hearing from Israeli politicians....

[Peres, interrupting] We have heard those politicians. We have heard those who say that we should be happy that we have had 40 years of peace, etc. We must be more realistic and be careful to separate the two: We must fight terrorism as though there are no negotiations, and negotiate without handing over control to the terrorists.

[Barqay] By the way, those politicians—Tzomet's Refa'el Eytan and the Likud's Ari'el Sharon—believe the security zone should be expanded. Do you support that?

[Peres] No, definitely not. I do not think that we should take more steps than are necessary. We should take the necessary steps to assure peace in the Galilee. No more and no less than that.

[Barqay] What are the necessary measures to assure peace in the Galilee?

[Peres] It is not a dilemma. They are things that are not announced on the radio, but anybody who is somewhat informed knows. Anyway, things have to be controlled and supervised. We cannot act according to moods or by issuing loud slogans. We had the Peace for Galilee campaign and the Lebanon war, and look what the outcome was.

[Barqay] The Air Force raids apparently resulted in calm in the north, at least last night. Would you recommend making do with that?

[Peres] I will not make my recommendations over the radio.

[Barqay] Mr. Peres, do you already have a scheduled meeting with President Mubarak for Sunday?

[Peres] Yes.

[Barqay] When are you going to see him?

[Peres] I probably will have breakfast with him on Sunday.

[Baraq] Are you prepared to tell us something about what you are going to tell him? Are you bringing him a message from the Government of Israel?

[Peres] I will thank him for the coffee and food, that is the most definite thing I can tell you now.

[Barqay] What is the most burning subject between us and Egypt?

[Peres] I am not prepared to start the negotiations with public statements.

[Barqay] The conclusion to be drawn from what you have said, Mr. Peres, is that we are continuing the peace talks in Washington and other places.

[Peres] Definitely. Peace is not a present we are giving the Arabs or a process which depends on them. It is the professed, committed Israeli policy for which we received a mandate from the people, and we will not be influenced by forces that reject the peace or hesitate to enter it, or change their views or moods. It is an unequivocal Israeli policy with a clear target. We will not be put off if there are difficulties and pleasantries along the way. Of course, what is happening is hard on us all.

Defense Sales to Eastern Europe $100 Million

TA1111121092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Nov 92 p A1

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] East European countries have ordered approximately $100 million worth of weapons and military equipment from Israel over the past two years. The purchases included ammunition, fire-control systems for tanks, light weapons, and aircraft components.

The defense links with countries in Eastern Europe were established after the collapse of the Communist regimes. The Defense Ministry and Israeli industries made great efforts to penetrate the new market, and initiated contacts with governments and industries in most of the former Communist countries.

The Defense Ministry's Defense Sales Department set up a marketing desk for Eastern Europe. The defense industries developed special products for the East European market, such as Israel Aircraft Industries' upgrade kit for the MiG-21, and a sophisticated 100 mm armor piercing shell produced by Israel Military Industries for use in the antiquated Russian tanks.

Other manifestations of the closer ties were reciprocal visits of Israeli and East European officials, the opening of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] attache's office in Poland, Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri's visit to Czechoslovakia, the visit to Israel of the Hungarian Defense Ministry's director general, and the scheduled visit of the Bulgarian defense minister. Senior representatives from CIS republics also arrived in Israel, and Moshe Arens, the former Israeli defense minister, visited Lithuania and Latvia.

Among the deals whose details were published was the Elbit company's upgrading of helicopters in Romania. Elbit is also in charge of a project to upgrade and sell Czechoslovakian training aircraft to a country in Asia. Elta and Astronautics are both competing for a tender to upgrade MiG-21's in Hungary.

Sources in the defense establishment said that despite the dire economic situation in the East European countries, they have started to modernize their armies and apparently have sufficient resources to invest in fields they deem important.

The Israeli companies are careful to demand that their East European clients furnish letters of credit from Western banks to guarantee payment for the deals.

Change to British-Style Monarchy Seen Soon

PM1011143392 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Mahmud Shammam and Mu'im Shadid report: "King Husayn: Saddam's Regime Responsible for Partitioning Iraq"]

[Excerpt] Washington, Jerusalem, London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Well-informed sources in Washington have described King Husayn's speech the day before yesterday as the "Jordanian king's will to his allies and people." A diplomatic source in the Jordanian capital emphasized this impression. He said: "Without doubt after the royal physician's announcement that his medical problems had ended the king's announcement that he needed further examinations was bad news... and will arouse many expectations."

In this context a prominent Jordanian politician told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the king's speech was an indication of coming changes in Jordan. These will be on their way to implementation within the coming three months. These constitutional changes will move Jordan closer to being ruled like Britain, as extensive powers will be given to the Jordanian prime minister and the House of Representatives. As for the king or the "heir" [al-warith], his role will be symbolic, like that of the queen of Britain. The Jordanian official, who held a leading position in the government in the past, added that "King Husayn did not agree to hand over power to his brother Prince Hasan because he lacks popularity among Jordanians. And his son 'Abdallah is still too young to rule." [passage omitted]

Columnist on 'Dubious' U.S. Embassy Activity

JN1211110592 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 11 Nov 92 p 2

["Citizen's Concerns" column by Samih al-Ma'ayitah: "The High Commissioner"]

[Text] In a previous issue of AL-RIBAT, I talked about some of the activities of the U.S. ambassador in Amman and his visits to some cities and official and private institutions. We urged the government to remind the ambassador of his true role and the function of diplomatic missions. Yet, what we hear about his excellency the ambassador's recurrent activities, on more than one level, reveals an insistence by the embassy and the ambassador on playing a dubious role and interfering in Jordan's domestic affairs in violation of national sovereignty.

We understand the principles of Jordan's foreign policy and the country's interest in building good relations with all states and respecting international laws and norms. We also understand the nature of relations with the United States, especially in the light of events of the recent years. This, however, should not stop the state from asking the U.S. Embassy to abide by diplomatic laws and norms because what his excellency the ambassador is doing violates these laws and norms.

Jordanian laws incriminate any citizen who establishes links and ties with a foreign country at the expense of his or her national affiliation. So what rule applies to a foreign country that seeks to establish dubious links with Jordanian citizens and institutions?

One usually assumes that any action is based on good intentions. However, this principle cannot be applied to explain the activities and contacts made by the U.S. Embassy and its staff, headed by his excellency the ambassador. Was the visit to al-Zarqa' and its municipal council part of the ambassador's tasks? And, was this visit made for noble purposes? How can one interpret the ambassador's visit to Ma'an and other areas with strong tribal influence, and his meeting with notables and official agencies in these areas? And, how can his excellency make an inspection visit to the Paper and Cardboard Factory in al-Zarqa'?

We mention only these examples without going into the U.S. Embassy's unannounced activities and the operations to win over some persons and organizations; or in other words to recruit them through various ways and means.

Anyone following the activities of the embassy and the ambassador realizes that the embassy staff are acting with the mentality of the high commissioner or the commissioner of a mandate or occupation power and go beyond the limits and powers granted to them because of their diplomatic status.

On the other hand, we are surprised by some people who interact with the embassy's activities without showing any respect for national sovereignty, and without realizing the suspect objectives of these activities. How does the management of the Paper and Cardboard Factory allow the ambassador to visit the factory as if he was a representative from the Jordanian Industry and Trade Ministry?

What pretext can that group of "nationalist figures," their excellencies the officials, and those who are trying to sell potential political parties offer as they rush to attend public and private receptions and dinner parties thrown by the embassy and the ambassador?

What is the wisdom behind inviting his excellency the ambassador to lunch or dinner in the house of his excellency the official or the house of a notable in a Jordanian town or village, or arranging meetings for some organizations with the embassy to strengthen relations between these individuals and organizations on the one hand and the embassy on the other?

Do these Jordanians not realize that these activities and ties have security purposes that fall in the service of the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA?

Have these people forgotten that Jordan's democratic transformations, political activity, and social changes are of interest to the U.S. security and political agencies, which are seeking to control and direct these changes in a way that agrees with their interests and goals in the region?

It may be normal for the U.S. Embassy to seek to achieve some goals. But, it is unacceptable for some of our citizens, regardless of their positions, to deal positively with the embassy's activities without understanding their true nature and objectives.

We think well of our citizens who interact with these activities. We, however, would not rule out the involvement of some who try to jump into the embassy boat to achieve personal gains, including official posts, money, and other gains.

The country is primarily responsible for controlling the U.S. Embassy's actions to correspond with the nature of its role. At the same time, it must deter the opportunists who seek to achieve personal ends and gains, without taking notice of the price they pay to our enemies, taking into account that the security agencies know the details of these activities and relations.

Finally, we hope we would not have to raise this issue again. The issue has national dimensions and involves Jordan's security and stability. Failure to deal with it will open the door for further infiltrations in the wall of national unity at the expense of Jordanian sovereignty over the Jordanian soil and citizens?

King Meets Delegates to Arab Trade Meetings

JN1111181192 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Amman, 11 Nov (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has received at the Royal Hashemite Court heads of delegations to the meetings of the Council of Arab Chambers of Trade, Industry, and Agriculture.

His majesty stressed that Jordan, with all its potentials, supports its brothers, is committed to the [Arab] nation, and is willing to extend anything possible toward the development and progress of the nation in all fields.

His majesty added that a unified and strong nation is one that is able to prove its existence and guarantee its future, as well as the future of its generations at home and between nations.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed confidence in the leaders of Arab commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors and their great role in plotting the course leading to progress and unity in the great Arab homeland.

A number of delegation heads spoke and stressed that the Arab march will advance, thanks to the continuous efforts of His Majesty King Husayn in the service of Arab and Islamic nations, and the efforts of sincere Arab leaders, intellectuals, and economists.

They stressed that the nation counts on His Majesty King Husayn's wisdom to overcome its problems in light of the glorious and historic role of the Hashemites, who pushed the nation toward attaining its freedom and restoring its role in civilization and the world.

They stressed that the Arabs hope to overcome obstacles facing their march, and they are aware of the efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn to bypass the current situation, the same as is the case with other nations which have suffered more than we are now, but they found their way—the way of solidarity, unity, and integration.

They expressed their outright support for the steps King Husayn has taken to restore Arab solidarity, which now stands as a popular Arab demand throughout the Arab homeland.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Chief of the Royal Court Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, and Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, the minister of industry and trade.

Heads of delegations to the meetings of the Council of Arab Chambers of Trade, Industry, and Agriculture attending the meetings are:

Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Muhammad Al Thani, president of the Qatari Chamber of Trade and Industry.

'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Khalid, vice president of Kuwaiti Chamber of Trade.

Hasan 'Abdallah al-Numan, chairman of the board of the Union of Chambers of Trade and Industry in the United Arab Emirates.

Muhammad Mahrusah, vice president of the Union of Syrian Chambers of Trade and president of the Aleppo Chamber of Trade and Industry.

'Adnan Qassar, president of Beirut Chamber of Trade and Industry.

Shaykh Salim Bin-Sa'id al-'Uraymi, vice president of Oman's Chamber of Trade and Industry.

Shaykh Isma'il 'Ali Abu-Dawud, president of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Trade and Industry.

'Ali Bin-Yusuf Fakhru, president of the Bahraini Chamber of Trade and Industry.

Al-Hadi al-Jilani, president of the Tunisian Union for Trade and Industry.

'Ali Mahmud Qaddurah, president of the Palestinian Union of Chambers of Trade and Industry.

Khaldun Abu-Hassan, president of Amman Chamber of Industry.

Muhammad Mithqal 'Asfur, president of the Jordanian Union of Chambers of Trade.

Haydar Murad, vice president of the Jordanian Union of Chambers of Trade.

Subayh Muhammad al-Shubaybi, president of the Iraqi Union of Chambers of Trade.

Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Mulla, of the Union of Gulf Cooperation Council Chambers.

PLO's Qaddumi Visits Amman for Talks

JN1111090592 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Nov 92 p 32

[Text] Amman—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, last night met with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, state of Palestine ambassador to Jordan, and a number of Palestinian leading figures. They discussed various issues relating to the peace process in the light of the visit Qaddumi made to Damascus and the talks he held with officials there.

Qaddumi arrived in Amman last night from the Syrian capital on a brief visit during which he will meet with Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir and a number of officials. His talks will fall within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination prior to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states bordering Israel, scheduled to be held in Beirut next week.

Palestinian Delegation Joins in Coordination Talks

Talks Begin

JN0711204492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] A joint Jordanian-Palestinian meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry in Amman today. This is a continuation of the process of bilateral coordination and part of the inter-Arab coordination involving the countries and parties participating in the peace process and the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The second phase of the seventh round of talks will be resumed in Washington the day after tomorrow, Monday.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir led the Jordanian side to the talks. The Palestinian side was headed by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who arrived in Amman this morning at the head of an official Palestinian delegation sent by the Tunis-based PLO leadership to continue the coordination process between the Jordanian Government and the PLO. The PLO dispatched another delegation to Damascus for the same purpose.

During the meeting, the two sides held lengthy discussions on the bases governing the future joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves. The talks were permeated by an atmosphere of frankness, a positive spirit, and a concern on the part of both sides to continue the bilateral coordination as part of the inter-Arab coordination involving the parties participating in the peace process.

Delegates Meet Prime Minister

JN0811120292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at the Prime Ministry this morning PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Yasir 'Amr, and Sulayman al-Najjab, as well as Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The meeting was attended by 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and transport minister, and Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

During the meeting, they reviewed in detail the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting which was held at the Foreign Ministry yesterday to discuss ways of continuing bilateral coordination within the framework of Arab coordination among the parties to the peace process during the peace negotiations, which will resume in Washington tomorrow.

PLO Official Comments

JN0811194192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Statements by PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh following a Palestinian delegation meeting with the Jordanian prime minister in Amman on 8 November—recorded]

[Text] We discussed a number of issues. We also underlined the same objectives and principles from which we proceeded within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation since the beginning of this process. These include adherence to objectives and rights, complete withdrawal from the occupied territories, guaranteeing self-determination and the Palestinian people's return to their homeland, and complete withdrawal from the occupied territories, particularly Arab Jerusalem, which is the title of the Palestinian national cause and the title of the Arab position.

We will continue coordination in the coming phase, both in the framework of the two delegations—which in fact are one delegation, the Jordanian-Palestinian—and within the framework of the joint meetings. We think that matters may be developed further with Arab efforts, and with the international efforts we can amass if there is really action based on a unified Arab position.

Birri Asks Clinton To Advise Israel To Withdraw

NC1211074692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has asked U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton whether he has advised Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon. The question came in a cable of congratulations Speaker Birri sent to President-elect Clinton.

The cable says: At the beginning of your term in office, I congratulate you on winning the U.S. peoples' confidence; perhaps at the end of your term, I will congratulate you on having won the world's confidence.

During the election campaign, I watched your interest in Israel's security. Will you advise Israel to end its occupation of the south?

Minister Reportedly Asks Hizballah To Halt Attacks

NC1211065592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul asked a Hizballah delegation yesterday to stop its Katyusha attacks against northern Israel and the border zone. In a statement to the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH, Dallul said he had agreed with Hizballah that self-restraint needs to be exercised to deny Israel the chance and excuse to justify its aggressions. Israel, however, does not need an excuse for its operations, he said, adding: There is an understanding of the delicate situation.

[Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 12 November carries a similar report that adds: "AFP has cited a well-informed source in Beirut as saying that Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul urged Hizballah to stop firing Katyushas at Israel so as not to give it an excuse to carry out an incursion against the south. In a telephone call to our station, a Hizballah source has denied this, saying: The subject was not discussed with Minister Dallul. What was emphasized, however, was the need for the resistance to continue its activity as long as the Israeli occupation shows no restraint."]

Hizballah's Nasrallah Comments on Resistance

NC1211094092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Hizballah held a massive ceremony yesterday to mark martyr's day. Leading Lebanese and Palestinian Islamic and national figures and a huge crowd that came to stress their loyalty to the blood of the martyrs and their pledge to follow their footsteps attended the event. The ceremony was preceded by a sports and scouts parade in which various teams took part.

Addressing the ceremony, Hizballah Secretary General his eminence al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah said: Today is Hizballah day of martyrs, beginning with [former Hizballah Secretary General] martyr al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, martyr al-Sayyid Raghib Harb, and all martyrdom-seeking fighters. Hizballah martyrs carry their weapons voluntarily, not compulsorily, and even leaders are martyred, he added. Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi was the first leader to be martyred during combat with the enemy.

[Begin Nasrallah recording] The resistance today is fighting with [words indistinct], rifles, explosive devices, and bombs. It storms and overruns positions, uproots bastions and forts, instilling fear—with its modest capabilities, giant will, and great spirit of enthusiasm—into the hearts of the Jews, who have been instilling fear into the hearts of Arabs and Muslims for a long time. This resistance, out of genuine conviction, solid commitment, absolute faith, unlimited determination, and constant readiness for martyrdom will continue. The Israeli threats will be of no avail whatsoever. When we started this (?war), we were, and still are, exercising our legitimate right to defend our people, land, kin, honor, and blood. With blood, we inspired the people, turning the resistance over a decade of jihad, blood, and martyrs—thanks to these martyrs—from an option limited to a specific community and faction to an option of the entire people. It has become a source of pride for the whole people; a conviction and logic that cannot be defeated by a counter logic and cannot be deterred by threats. Let Rabin and Clinton, newly elected to the White House, understand that for us the Islamic Resistance is a religion, a conviction, and a faith. There can be no religion without resistance. It is also an act of patriotism, and there can be no patriotism without resistance. It is part of our life, and there can be no proper life without resistance.

In the face of threats and pressure, we would like to emphasize that the resistance will continue. The newspapers today spoke of Israeli preparations to hit 400 military targets. I say: They will have to kill us all, destroy all our homes, annihilate us all, including our children, if they want this resistance to end. [cheers] The sons of Khomeyni, Khamene'i, 'Abbas al-Musawi, Raghib Harb, [the Prophet Muhammad's grandson] al-Husayn, [the Prophet's cousin and fourth caliph] 'Ali, and Muhammad will never give up this resistance. [end recording]

Al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah added: From here we tell our people in Lebanon and the Arab and Islamic peoples that if you do not carry weapons to defend yourselves, you will be swallowed. Look at what is happening to Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the barbarian massacres they are subjected to in detention camps and under siege. Al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah called on the Lebanese delegation to walk out of the failing negotiations, which only make proposals to the enemy. He added: In the face of the attacks against us and threats against our kin and security, we have the right to use all means at our disposal to eliminate the threat in the south and the struggling villages. Al-Sayyid Nasrallah added: We thank all who are standing beside us, particularly Syria, which, despite the daily Israeli and U.S. threats, has declared that it is acting according to its convictions alongside an oppressed people who are exercising their legitimate right.

Turning to the political situation in Lebanon, his eminence said: Our people have expressed their support for the resistance through the elections. We act, both inside and outside the Chamber of Deputies, in accordance with our conviction and election program, which has never been a mere slogan. Thus, whether our deputies back or withhold their support for the government does not depend on individual issues, but policy matters. The Hizballah secretary general noted that the government policy statement made no mention of the resistance and called on the government to adopt and support the resistance. While thanking and appreciating the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, he added, the statement forgot that there is a resistance in the south.

Buwayz on Citizens' Right To Fight Occupation

NC1111145992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The British ambassador to Lebanon requested an urgent meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who received her together with the Italian and Belgian ambassadors. The meeting has just ended.

Our correspondent said that the talks during the meeting dealt with the deteriorating situation in south Lebanon. Ambassador May Fay Geraldine Forte warned against any wrong calculations concerning the situation in the south. Buwayz asked the ambassadors to convey to their governments a Lebanese request to dissuade Israel from carrying out any military offensive.

At the end of the meeting, Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] I repeat our conviction that what Israel is doing in the south is absolutely unjustified and it is meant to embarrass the delegation currently taking part in the negotiations in Washington and to embarrass and confuse the Lebanese state concerning the issue of resistance.

We have told everyone that the Lebanese state cannot cancel the right of any citizen to confront the Israeli occupation as long as it does not possess guarantees and assertions about a complete, comprehensive, and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces. [end recording]

For her part, the British ambassador said: We have come to express our profound concern regarding the escalation in south Lebanon and to ask the Lebanese Government to do all it can to pacify the situation. We believe that miscalculations constitute a great danger. She said that the foreign minister shares our concern. The British ambassador said that the foreign minister has asked us to convey to our governments a Lebanese request to immediately intercede with Israel by holding negotiations through our representatives in Israel.

Khaddam 'Waiting To See' Clinton Posture

PM1011132392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Khaddam Tells AL-MAJALLAH: We Do Not Want a 'New Bosnia' in Lebanon. We Are Waiting To See What Positions the Clinton Administration Will Take"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an interview to be published by our sister paper AL-MAJALLAH in its issue tomorrow morning, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam says that Syria wants to withdraw from Lebanon today rather than tomorrow but in a way that would not lead to a "new Bosnia." He wishes the new Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri every success in fulfilling the tasks listed in the national accord charter.

In his first comment on the election of Bill Clinton as U.S. president, the Syrian vice president says that "Syria is waiting to see what positions the new U.S. Administration will take. If there are positions that run contrary to our interests then we will certainly work for the preservation of these interests."

Khaddam explains that Syria did not approve of the Palestinian track in the negotiations, but it did not interfere in it. He says he is unaware that Yasir 'Arafat wishes to visit Damascus.

Hope, Optimism Linked With New Administration

PM1111143192 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Clinton's Concentration on Economy May Reflect on U.S.-Israeli Relations"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—The Syrian reactions to Bill Clinton's election as President of the United States have not been negative, as if to mirror a stand on Clinton's election campaign statements which were pro-Israel and anti-Syria and against its internal and foreign policies, particularly its policy on Lebanon. The reactions were somewhat positive with the hope that these statements were only for electioneering purposes and the hope that Clinton would translate his support for justice and human rights into a positive stand regarding the Arab demands in the peace process.

The optimism is also based on the results of the initial contacts between Syria and Clinton's aides. The U.S. president-elect's camp has confirmed its commitment to the peace process on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, and the the Bush administration's letters of assurances to the negotiating parties.

Syrian sources believe that the Clinton administration's concentration on the need to revive the U.S. economy could form a basis for a more balanced U.S.-Arab relations and a retreat in U.S.-Israeli relations.

The sources said that "the establishment of peace in the Middle East would serve the U.S. Administration and its interests in the region and would only require Washington to shoulder its great responsibilities, work for the continuation of the peace process, and rescue international legitimacy."

The sources added that "Clinton will be dealing with a generally bad Arab situation with the crisis of the three islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa still unresolved even though Iran and the United Arab Emirates have accepted the Syrian proposal calling for the restoration of the precrisis status quo. There is also the situation in Iraq with Saddam Husayn still in power, the flagrant Turkish interference in northern Iraq, and the inclination toward a federation for the Iraqi Kurds which might threaten Iraq's territorial integrity."

They believe that Damascus's attitude toward the new U.S. Administration carries "a two-way invitation, for Clinton to deal with the Arabs who would give him economic gains he badly needs, and for the Arabs to coordinate fully among themselves with a view to convincing the new administration to invest in the Arab homeland instead of the Israeli market. That would strengthen the Arab position in the peace process and lay the foundation for the fulfillment of Arab rights on the basis of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle."

* Russia Reportedly Concludes New Arms Deal

93AE0089A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 92 p 4

[Article from London: "$2 Billion Arms Deal Between Russia and Syria"]

[Text] Western and Israeli defense sources recently revealed that they have information about a major new arms deal between Russia and Syria that was concluded earlier this year but was not announced at the time.

The sources say that this deal was the most important one so far concluded by the Russian Federation with a Middle Eastern country since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the succession of President Boris Yeltsin to power in Russia. It is also the first arms deal between Syria and the new Russian regime. It is worth mentioning that the last arms deal between the two sides was in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war and months before the collapse of the communist regime in Russia.

The information provided by the sources about this deal indicate that it is a practical continuation of the arms cooperation agreement that was concluded between the two countries immediately after the Gulf war. At that time, the agreement was estimated to be worth $2 billion. The agreement included supplying the Syrian armed forces with more Mig-29 fighters, Sukhoi-24 and T-72 tanks and antiaircraft medium-range SAM-11's and short-range SAM-13's.

No accurate information is available about the number of weapons Syria was supposed to have agreed upon with Moscow in to the 1991 agreement. It is generally believed that the deal included 48 multipurpose MiG-29 fighters, 24 strategic offensive Sukhoi-24's, in addition to 300 T-72 tanks and an unspecified number of SAM-11's and SAM-13's.

As for the new arms deal reportedly agreed upon in the beginning of this year, there is information to the effect that Syria has acquired 24 additional MiG-29's, 12 new interceptive Sukhoi-27's, and 300 T-72/74 tanks in addition to new SAM-10's and SAM-16's

The interesting thing about this deal is the kinds of weapons involved. If the information is true, Syria would be the first country to order the long-range Sukhoi-27 fighter, which is internationally considered to be the best in the world. This plane is equipped for interception, pursuit, and aerial combat in all altitudes and distances. It is characterized by its unparalleled ability for acceleration, ascent, and maneuvering. It is armed with 10 air-to-air short-range and long-range missiles. It's radar can detect and pursue enemy targets for up to 240 km. It can also deal with six targets simultaneously. The closest western competitor to this plane is the American F-15 Eagle, which is currently deployed in Saudi Arabia and Israel.

According to the Russians, SAM-10, the true Russian name of which is S-300, is their counterpart to the American made Patriot missile. In their opinion, it is even superior to the Patriot because it can be used as both an antiaircraft and an antiballistic missile. Syria would be the only country other than Russia to have if the information is correct. SAM-16 is the top-of-the-line Russian-made shoulder-carried antiaircraft missile. It is considered the Russian counterpart to the American Stinger missile.

The information available about the weapons that Syria is supposed to have according to the original estimates of these two deals corresponds to Syria's desire to modernize it armed forces, especially its Air Force and its armored vehicles. Syria's Air Force is currently using 48 MiG-29 fighters and 24 offensive Sukhoi-24 fighters that it acquired in deals with the then Soviet Union during the 1980's. It is also known that Syria originally wanted its armed forces to have about 120 MiG-29 fighters and 48 Sukhoi-24 fighters. As for the T-72/74 tanks, the Syrian Army currently has about 1,500, including 320 that were recently acquired from Czechoslovakia. This is in addition to Syria's plans to modernize its air defense systems. Such an objective can be realized after it obtains the new SAM-10's, 11's, 13's, and 16's

As a result of this deal and the 1991 deal, Syria would be in a position to realize such goals. These two deals would bring the number of MiG-29's in Syria to 120 and the number of Sukhoi-24's to 48. This is in addition to the Syrian armed forces acquiring Sukhoi-27's for the first time. The number of tanks the Syrian Army will have will be as high as 3,200.

It is not yet known when Syria will obtain these new Russian weapons, but it is expected that they will obtain them by the new year.

Afghanistan

Iranian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Consults With Gaylani

LD1011130792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] This morning, Esteemed Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, held official talks with Dr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompaying delegation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides conducted talks in an atmosphere of cordiality and trust on the development and the deepening of relations and cooperation, as well as on regional problems and international issues.

Having outlined the political, military, and security situation of our country and the circumstances of the convening of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Hal wa Aqd Shura], the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan expressed gratitude for the assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international forums and (word indistinct) and for its cooperation during the 14-year jihad of the people of Afghanistan and the establishment of the Islamic State in the country. He especially thanked Iran for the $50-million credit for the supply of fuel and food, and he expressed the hope that the cooperation and assistance will continue and that the Islamic Republic of Iran will play a major part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He also welcomed the exchange of economic, cultural, and political delegations, which has taken place since the victory of the islamic revolution of Afghanistan and hoped that such exchanges of (words indistinct) will continue in the future.

In response, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed congratulations for the victory of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and expressed the hope that the people of Afghanistan will attain a high degree of peace and prosperity in the light of the Islamic revolution. He also stated that humanitarian aid from Iran to the people of Afghanistan would continue, that Iran would participate in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and that economic, cultural, and political cooperation would expand between the two countries. At the end of the talks, they discussed the formation of a joint commission of the ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries and the membership of Afghanistan in the Economic Cooperation Organization. Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati invited Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani to pay a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was accepted with pleasure. Dr. Najibollah Lafra'e, minister of state for foreign affairs, Jalil Shams, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying Dr. Velayati also participated in the talks.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1011151992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text of joint communique issued in Kabul on 9 November at the conclusion of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's official visit]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, esteemed foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, heading a delegation, arrived in Kabul on 9 November 1992, on an official and friendly one-day visit at the invitation of esteemed Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and was received by esteemed Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister [words indistinct], senior officials and jehadi commanders of Afghanistan. [passage indistinct] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has talks with esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islammic State of Afghanistan. Dr. Velayati, forreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, held a round of formal talks with esteemed Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, [words indistinct] and during the meeting the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran offered congratulations on the victory of the Muslim mojahedin of Afghanistan to the president of the Islamic State Afghanistan and to the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Afghanistan.

During the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of fraternity and complete understanding, both sides closely assessed the expansion of freindly relations and the deepening of cooperation between the two neighboring Muslim countries, and also they discussed regional and international issues. There was a (?similarity of views on) all issues.

The esteemed chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed gratitude for the selfless help of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the years of jihad of the people of Afghanistan and for the humanitarian aid which is continuing. Both sides agreed to set up immediately a commission at the foreign ministers level. Taking into account the role of the Economic Cooperation Organization, which provides the foundation for further cooperation between the two countries, both sides emphasized the membership of Afghanistan in the organization.

While condemning the crimes of the Serbs against the Muslims of Bosnia who are defending their independence and territorial integrity, both sides asked Muslim countries and the international community to use all means to prevent the killing of Muslims in that country.

Dr. Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, invited esteemed Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

The esteemed foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed pleasure at the warm welcome and hospitality of the Muslim nation and state of Afghanistan.

Velayati Departs

LD1011144992 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—An Iranian cargo plane carrying the humanitarian aids of Iran's Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for the Afghan Muslims landed in Kabul airport Monday simultaneous with the visit to Afghanistan of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The relief supplies were handed over to Afghan government officials and representatives of country's Red Crescent Society. Iran has so far sent 93 plane loads of aid to Afghanistan.

Foodstuff shortage has become more acute in the Afghan capital in the aftermath of current clashes around Kabul and approaching of winter.

During his one-day stay in Kabul, Velayati held talks with president of the interim government Borhannodin Rabbani and his Afghan counterpart Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani on issues of mutual interest.

The Iranian minister left Kabul for New Delhi, India, to attend the sixth session of Tehran-New Delhi Joint Economic Commission.

Hekmatyar Interviewed on Possibility of War

LD1111005192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] [Announcer] Dear listeners, please pay attention to an interview with [Golboddin] Hekmatyar [leader of the Hezb-e Eslami organization] which was carried out two days ago by the SHAHADAT newspaper:

Question: Some time ago four jehadi parties issued an ultimatum to the coalition government after talks between them that if in four days the militia did leave Kabul, they would jointly cleanse Kabul City of their existence. Can you tell us, after the elapse that period what action has the four parties taken?

Answer: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Unfortunately our friends did not remain steadfast in their committments made during the meeting of the four parties and the accord reached there. It was decided that if militia units [words indistinct] in four days, we, the four parties, would make a separate decision and would form a government, and the new president of the state would declare in his first speech the dissolution of the remaining armed units of the communists. Together with this they would ask all mojahedin forces to dispatch their forces to Kabul.

Unfortunately, as usual these friends of ours chose another way. They sat with us and made undertakings and then went away and rescinded the undertakings they made with us.

Question: What is your opinion on the extension of Rabbani's tenure [of the presidency] for 45 more days by the Leadership Council?

Answer: This act was a blatant contravention of the Peshawar Accord. It was noted in the Peshawar Accord in crystal clear words that after the [words indistinct] the presidency of Ostad Rabbani would not be extended by a single day and after the elapse of four months power would be transfered to another president without delay. And during that period the Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Hal wa Aqd Shura] must be convened.

On the one hand they started work on convening the council during the last weeks of that period. On the other hand they tried to ensure that the Reconciliation and Settlement Council would not to attain [words indistinct]. Eventually, after [words indistinct] they decided to extend the period. [words indistinct] the present government has no legality in our opinion.

Question: It is not possible to convene the Reconciliation and Settlement Council in the remaining 40 days due to the procedure envisioned for the selection of the members of the council? How can the power vacuum be filled?

Answer: Basically there has been a power vacuum right from the begining. Power is in the hands of fragmented forces, and so far real power has not transferred to the mojahedin. I feel that if Rabbani can, he will mount another coup d'etat in order to extend this period yet again. It can be inferred from those acts of friends that they do not want the fate of the nation to be determined by the nation, and to choose its country's leadership without foreign interference. They want to extend this period by compromises, by wheeling and dealing, and by concessions to one another, and to create another interim government.

Question: Recently we learned that Hazrat Mojaddedi met you with the intention of mediation. Could you please shed light on the result of your conversation?

Answer: Hazrat Mojaddedi met with us in connection with recent events in the country. [Words indistinct] he is unhappy with the present sitution. He wants an end to the current clashes, and is searching for a way to resolve the present crisis in the country. He was insistent on finding a way to prevent conflagration, an end to the seige of Kabul, and the opening of communication lines. [Words indistinct] the security of Kabul is ensured by the Jehadi Council of Kabul under the supervision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, honest and sincere work will start for the convening of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council, councils will be set up at subdistrict and district level [words indistinct].

We insisted that if there is a distribution of aid to the people of Afghanistan it should be by an authoritative delegation consisting of representatives of the jehadi formations which will not include a government representative. In that case we are ready to open roads. [Words indistinct] we said that aid was pocketed before reaching the people. For this reason we insist that aid is distributed to the deserving people by an authoritative delegation made up of representatives of all parties. Then we will never prevent aid reaching Kabul.

Question: [Words indistinct] why now does he [Mojaddedi] want to mediate between the state and the Hezb?

Answer: [Words indistinct] and he shall answer it.

Question: Nangarhar's peace delegation committed itself, in the event the coalition government violated the provisions of the ceasefire agreement, that it would declare war on the government in support of Hezb-e Eslami. Now that instead of a week, two months has passed since the signing of the cease-fire accord they are still silent. Please state the reasons for this silence.

Answer: Although the answer to this question should be referred to the delegation, unfortunately it did not act on its comitments, the other side is not comitted to its undertakings, the remaining units of the communist regime have not left Kabul, and none of the provisions of the accord have been implemented. We object to it. For this reason we told the peace delegation last week that their task is therefore ended. [passage indistinct]

Question: In the event the coalition administration continues to violate the provisions of the accord, is there the possibility of more fighting?

Answer: The [responsibility for] the consequences of the coalition administration's violations and the dangerous incidents (?caused by) them rest with the coalition administration and its leaders. I surmise that they have chosen the path of compromises, conspiracies, and war. They start the fighting by their deeds. They embark on sedition in other parts and inflame [word indistinct] by adventurism.

Question: With the accession of Democrats in America will there be changes in the United States' policy [words indistinct]?

Answer: [words indistinct] but it is impossible that this change will lead to a change in U.S. policy as a whole. I should say that the United States' policy with regard to the Islamic world and the Muslim countries [words indistinct] is the same as the former policy. The CIA's plans are accepted as the real policy of the rulers of America and as the policy of that country. This agency changes and chooses the leaders. I do not envisage that the United States' policy will change with the victory of the Democrats. There may well be differences between the Republicans and Democrats in terms of internal policy but their foreign policy does not change.

Question: It is said that Rashid Dostam wants to visit Saudi Arabia. He has previously been to Pakistan and Turkey. The Saudi state has asked your permission to give him an entry visa. What advice have you given to Saudi Government in this respect?

Answer: It is up to the Saudi Government. An invitation to a murderer such as Dostam to visit Saudi Arabia is against our expectation.

Unity Party Leader on Constituent Council Issues

LD1111171792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The secretary general of the Afghan Islamic Unity Party has stessed the importance of setting up the constituent council [shura-ye hal va aqd].

In an exclusive interview with the reporter of Islamic Republic Voice and Vision in Kabul, Mr. Mazari said that this council must be set up one week before the end of the term of Mr. Rabbani's presidency on 16 December. He added that the views of the elders and those trusted by the people must be sought in the formation of the council.

He said that of 1,200 members of the council, 260 would be Shias. Afghan migrants who have not yet returned home will be included in the elections to the council. After the completion of the work of the said council and election of the future head of Afghanistan's Islamic Government for one and a half years, one-third of the members of the council will be elected to the Agfhan legislative assembly. This assembly must prepare the draft of the constitution within one and a half years and put it to a referendum for final approval, he said.

Stressing the role of women in the Islamic society of Afghanistan, Mr. Mazari said that the Muslim woman must play her role in political, social and cultural activities.

India

Prospects for Clinton Presidency Viewed

BK1211042292 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 Nov 92 p 8

[Editorial: " An Economic Mandate"]

[Text] Mr Bill Clinton'S victory in the American Presidential race brings the dramatic change of guard in Britain in 1945 immediately to mind. Winston Churchill was still wearing the halo of a hero of the Second World War which had just ended with the crushing defeat of Germany and Japan. Yet, the British electorate decided that the triumphant leader of the war need not necessarily be the best leader to deal with the problems of peace. Likewise, the Americans now have refused to allow their admiration for President Bush's competent leadership of the Gulf War in 1991 to influence their choice in the presidential contest. Nor were they swayed by Mr Bush's leadership of the Western alliance in its final lurch to the historic victory in the Cold War. Indeed, the very fact of the collapse of the Soviet Union has apparently intensified the Americans' yearning for sweeping changes at home to improve their living standards. It is the groundswell of this sentiment for change which Mr Bush ignored much to his cost. Who in the Republican Party or the White House was really responsible for this grievous failure to correctly read the barometer of popular mood especially when economic recession had cast widespread gloom? There is bound to be a good deal of feuding over this issue in the inevitable election post-mortem in the Republican caucus.

In sharp contrast, Governor Bill Clinton put the need for a drastic change in the economic policies on the top of his agenda right from the word go. A sustained attack on the status quo marked his whirlwind campaign. He refused to be diverted from this tack by the free use of the weapon of smear against him by Mr Bush. To repeatedly question Mr Clinton's character and credentials for the White House tenancy, as Mr Bush did, was hardly a wise tactic. It only helped Mr Clinton to reinforce his basic charge that Mr Bush had no credible answer for the country's economic ills. Mr Bush's bland response was that economic recovery had started. It only seems to have persuaded more voters to give a chance to Mr Clinton.

Higher taxes on the richer classes and public investment in health care, education and infrastructure are some of the highlights of Mr Clinton's economic agenda. They may take many American minds back to Roosevelt's New Deal. That was the era of liberal extremism. Mr Clinton, however, has sought to signal a preference for a centrist position in the wide welfare spectrum associated with the Democratic Party. He wants a dramatic growth of the private sector but argues that it is inconceivable without the government giving a boost to the infrastructure. In the final analysis, what will count is whether he will find all this fully compatible with the dire need to reduce the yawning deficit. In evolving viable policies out of campaign promises, Mr Clinton will have to wrestle with hard-nosed Congressmen, Democrats as well as Republicans. As far as foreign policy is concerned, there is so far nothing to suggest that he favours a radical departure from the existing US positions on the main issues viz the West Asian peace process and relations with China and the Soviet Union.

Iran's Velayati Visits for Consultations

LD0911222192 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 9, IRNA—'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in New Delhi via Kabul, today, on a three day official visit.

Velayati, who is heading a delegation for the sixth Tehran-New Delhi Joint Commission, is visiting India on the invitation of the Indian foreign secretary, J.N. Dixit.

During his stay in New Delhi the Iranian dignitary will meet the Indian president, Shankar Dayal Sharma the vice president, K.R. Narayanan, and the Indian premier, Narashimha Rao.

The discussions between the Iranian minister and Indian officials are expected to revolve around bilateral, regional and international issues.

Velayati will also inaugurate on Wednesday the Iran culture week in the Deccan city of Hyderabad, the capital of the south Indian Province of Andhra Pradesh which is famous for its rich Muslim culture.

Significantly, the high level delegation led by the Iranian foreign minister has delegates from the Iranian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Heavy Industries, Construction Jihad, Transport and Commerce.

Joint Commission Convenes

LD1011175792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Telephone dispatch from New Delhi by correspondent on the start of the sixth Iranian-Indian joint commission]

[Text] The sixth Iranian-Indian joint commission opened in New Delhi this morning in the presence of our country's foreign minister and India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Bhatia. The session is also being attended by the two countries' ambassadors and our country's deputy ministers of agriculture, industry, and roads and transport.

India's minister of state for external affairs welcomed the Iranian delegation, remarked on the long tradition of ties between Iran and India, and called for the further expansion and consolidation of relations between the two countries. He stressed: Cooperation between Iran and India, as two countries with influence over regional and world economic and political affairs, will not only benefit the two countries, but will also serve the interests of the region and promote its stability. Concluding his remarks, the minister said: In view of Iran's importance, we have taken fundamental steps toward maintaining and sustaining our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The fifth Iranian-Indian joint commission which was held in Tehran last year was the focal point of these relations.

Foreign Minister Velayati, for his part, thanked his host for his warm sentiments and continued: The excellent record and the existing unbreakable bonds between the Indian and Iranian nations make us dutybound to intensify bilateral cooperation, for the sake of our people's prosperity and for maintaining peace and stability in the world, and above all the region.

Mr. Velayati also pointed to the rapid developments around the world and the attempts by arrogant powers to continue their hegemony over the developing countries. He said: Under these circumstances, the only means of confronting subversive attempts by the imperialist powers is to increase unity and solidarity among Third World countries.

In conclusion, Mr. Velayati expressed satisfaction with the existing trend of relations between the two countries.

I should like to note that Mr. Velayati, who arrived in India yesterday at the invitation of India's minister of state for external affairs, also had a private meeting with his Indian counterpart this morning.

The sixth Iranian-Indian joint commission will end its work tommorrow morning, with the finalization of proposals of the expert committees, which comprise technical and economic experts.

Cooperation To Be Expanded

BK1011161892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] India and Iran are to substantially increase cooperation in areas of surface transport, shipping, railways and power generation. This was decided at the sixth session of Indo-Iranian Joint Commission in New Delhi today. Working groups from five committees—industry, trade, consular and cultural, agriculture, and transportation—also met this morning to consider measures to strengthen bilateral ties in these fields. The Indian delegation at the joint commission meeting was led by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and the Iranian delegation by the foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Later, Mr. Velayati called on the president, the vice president, and the prime minister. His discussions included a review of the situation in Afghanistan and the results of the Jakarta nonaligned summit.

Velayati, Rao Meet

LD1111005692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Mr. Velayati met with Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao, and handed to him President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's written message.

Expansion of bilateral relations, trends of the Iranian-Indian joint commission, important regional and international problems and developments, and the role played by the two countries in regional and international scenes were discussed during the meeting.

President Receives Iranian Minister

NC1111074892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, currently on an official visit to New Delhi, met Indian President Venkataraman last night.

During the meeting, the Indian president discussed the rich Iranian culture, literature, and civilization and elaborated on the two nations' cultural and literary similarities. He said that Indian culture has been greatly influenced by Iranian culture and literature.

President Venkataraman stressed that both countries need to strengthen and deepen cultural relations and information exchange on cultural issues.

Velayati also discussed Persian literature and culture, which is currently in vogue throughout the subcontinent, and expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to upgrade the level of cultural cooperation. He emphasized efforts to revive the rich eastern culture and literature and of the memory and names of the great litterateurs of the two countries.

Delegation Departs for Nonproliferation Talks

BK1111085092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] An official delegation is leaving New Delhi for Washington today for bilateral discussions on nuclear nonproliferation. The delegation will be led by Mr. C. Dasgupta, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. These talks are a part of the ongoing dialogue that was set in motion following a decision taken at a meeting between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and President Bush in February last. The Indian delegation will also make initial contact with officials in the Clinton transition team dealing with nuclear nonproliferation.

French Proposal on Nuclear Test Ban Viewed

BK1111123592 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Commentary by Ravindrapal Singh of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis]

[Text] The French call to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to hold talks on ending nuclear weapons tests and controlling launches of ballistic missiles coincides with the arrival of a new administration in Washington. The United States under the Republican dispensation has been consistently opposing a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. The American objections were shaped mainly by the cold war experience. The controls on ballistic missile launches would be acceptable to the major powers in case of only two categories of these systems. One would be of the type of missile systems which have become operationally redundant and the second category of missiles are those which would not be technologically competitive.

Except for Chinese objections to controlling exports of ballistic missiles, who do not consider missiles as weapons of mass destruction, the other four countries have at stake controlling proliferation of ballistic missiles in the third world. While Russia [as heard] is primarily concerned with potential threats emanating from Israeli missile developments, the Europeans are concerned about the ballistic missile proliferation in the North Africa and West Asia region. Since the French proposal suggests implementing only controls on missile launches and not the total ban, the situation will allow sufficient room for missile developments by the major powers as well as create a space for political pressure play.

The French proposal also indicates an interesting turn of events as they along with the British have always been viewing nuclear weapons as the ultimate form of determnance. Having accepted a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing, to what extent would they go along in accepting renunciation of nuclear weapons? The only possible objection could be from China which has recently tested a very high yield nuclear device. Objections on the grounds of accuracies and verifiction capabilities have also become manageable with improvements in sensor technologies. In any case, a comprehensive nuclear weapon test ban is easier to monitor than the chemical weapons ban which has been agreed upon under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Notwithstanding the fact that the proposal calls for a five-nation cooperation toward evolving nuclear arms control, the American involvement holds the key to its successful implementation. The new U.S. president, Bill Clinton's responses to the French initiative can be examined in the context of his known position on nuclear arms control. He has advocted a two-step process leading to a full and comprehensive nuclear test ban. It, inter alia, begins with establishment of stronger supplier controls on preventing clandestine leakage of nuclear technology. In substance, the U.S. Government aims to build a more coherent international response amongst the nuclear haves against the potential proliferation. An initiative of this kind would require Russian and Chinese participation.

India has been all along calling for a comprehensive nuclear test ban by the nuclear powers as an indicator of their genuine intentions. Acceptance of a comprehensive nuclear test ban would also dilute India's objection to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—NPT—significantly. The timing of the proposal reflects the priority being given by the Western countries to controlling weapons of mass destruction, particularly the nuclear weapons. And possibly this proposal is the first of a series of intiatives which would lead to neutralizing the objections of the nuclear have-not states against the NPT which is coming up for extension in 1995.

Sino-Indian Confidence-Building Measures

BK1211040492 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Nov 92 p 12

[Text] New Delhi—Significant confidence building measures [CBM] to maintain peace along the Sino-Indo border are on the anvil.

The recently concluded fifth meeting of the Sino-Indo Joint Working Group [JWG] in Beijing discussed in detail a series of CBMs including a reduction of troops, shifting of border posts to increase the distance between them, prior intimation of military exercises and the handling of air intrusions on either side.

While no formal agreement was reached on these in this round of discussions, the next JWG meeting is likely to finalise some of these to maintain the tempo of improving relations between India and China.

The only tangible outcome of the fifth round was the decision to open additional points for border trade. The location of these points are to be finalised through diplomatic channels. One is already in place along the Indo-Tibet border.

Foreign Office sources said the effort of the JWG at present is to take concrete steps along the Line of Actual Control and increase the level and frequency of contacts to create an atmosphere in which the main bone of contention between India and China—the sensitive border question—can be discussed.

The Chinese side is understood to have repeated its standard formulation on this ticklish issue by offering to make adjustments in the western sector in return for similar concession from India in the eastern sector.

This is put on paper by the Chinese at every JWG but without details to begin negotiations. The Indian side asked China for a specific offer to be considered by New Delhi.

There is a growing realisation on both sides of the need to build a political and public consensus on this issue before getting down to the nitty-gritty of resolving it. This feeling was reiterated not only by the Indian side in the recent discussions but significantly by the Chinese side as well.

In keeping with this the range of contacts between India and China has been stepped up considerably in the past year, starting with the Chinese Premier's visit last December. Since then, the former president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the Defence Minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, have been to China which has sent in return a parliamentary delegation, a military delegation and other sundry officials to India.

At present, the Welfare Minister, Mr. Sitaram Kesri, is in China and the Human Resource Development Minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, is slated to leave within a couple of days for Beijing. From the Chinese side, visits by their

President, their Party General Secretary and the Vice Speaker of their Parliament are on cards.

China watchers here point out that Beijing today is primarily concerned with its internal economic development and realises the importance of maintaining non-acrimonious, stable relations with its neighbours. It has recently stepped up contacts with the ASEAN countries and with Japan, the highlight of which was the first visit ever by a Japanese Emperor to Beijing last week. Its desire to buy peace with India should be seen in this context.

Naval Chief Comments on Indo-U.S. Exercises

BK1211035092 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Nov 92 p 12

[Text] New Delhi—The next round of Indo-US Naval exercises will be a step forward from the previous joint manoeuvre. For the first time, the two Navies wiil perform their exercise around a tactical setting in the Indian Ocean, as a logical graduation from the already successfully conducted basic drills at sea.

The dates and details for this round will be worked out by the joint Naval steering committee scheduled to meet in January 1993 according to Naval chief Admiral L. Ramdas.

Speaking about his recently concluded US visit, the Naval chief made two observations of significance. First, that Navy to Navy exercises were part of Naval diplomacy and played a major part in futhering good relations between nations.

Second, that the US political and military leadership had assured him that Washington was keen to work closely with and better understand the Navy, which is regarded as a highly professional force in the region.

Notwithstanding who occupies the White House, the evolving Naval ties will remain unaffected, was the unanimous opinion of the US leadership conveyed to Admiral Ramdas.

While taking note of the Naval chief's concern about the massive armament programmes undertaken by countries in the region, notably Pakistan and China (this was conveyed during the course of his address to the Naval war college at Rhode Island), the US leadership was receptive to the Navy's need for across-the-board US technology. However, no arms shopping list was discussed, as the visit was aimed at "understanding geo-strategic perceptions, professional commonalities and updates, training procedures and methodology."

The US leadership spoke about the need to effectively tackle the growing regional instabilities since the end of the cold war. The key to maintaining regional stability and security of the vast sea lanes is coordination in time of peace and cooperation in time of crisis. This can be best achieved by according priority to continuation of bilateral exercises, training and exchange programmes, which are important to developing trust, experience and inter-operability between the Navies, it had said.

The other US shared with the Naval chief was in the area of piracy and drug trafficking. It was suggested that cooperation between various countries was required to effectively tackle this nenace.

Concern was also expressed in the need to confront the inevitable trade wars, which are a direct result of the stunning economic growth of Asian nations, receding threat of global wars, rising domestic and regional pressures and expanding military capabilities in the region. This calls for more cooperation between the nations of the region. In this context, Admiral Ramdas mentioned the Government's desire to establish good relations with nations of the region. And to this end, the Navy was examining the possibility of joint exercises with neighbouring countries, he said.

The Naval chief's week-long visit—five days on the mainland and two in the Pacific—provided the right opportunities for interaction with many leaders of the US Navy. Navy secretary Sean o'Keefe, under secretary Stan Howard and assitant secretary (defence) James Lille were among the political leaders who met the Indian Naval chief.

Among the military top-brass which confabulated with Admiral Ramdas in the Pentagon were vice-chairman of joint chiefs of staff Admiral Jeremaih, chief of Naval (operations) Admiral Frank. B. Kelso, and his deputy, Admiral Arthur. The Naval chief also met the US commander-in-chief (Pacific Command) Admiral Charles.R. Larson fleet commander Admiral Robert Kelly, and Atlantic Fleet commander Admiral Henry Mauz.

Admiral Kelso accompanied Admiral Ramdas on an air and sea power demonstration aboard nuclear carrier USS Roosevelt [in italics] in Norkfolk. Admiral Ramdas also visited the nuclear submarine base at King's Bay in Florida, where he went on the nuclear-powered ballistic-missile submarine (SSBN) *US Pennsylvania.*

These visits would not have been possible during the cold war period the Naval chief observed.

He also reviewed a recruit passing-out parade in Chicago, and visited aviation facilities in Maypor and the surface warfare school.

Minister Urges India-Canada Joint Ventures

BK1211021492 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 Nov 92 p 11

[Text] New Delhi—The Minister of State for Commerce Prof P J Kurien has urged Canadian businessmen to consider joint ventures with India in the fields of power, telecommunication and information technology. Inaugurating the 7th meeting of the India-Canada Joint Business Council (JBC) here on Wednesday, Prof Kurien said that while there was a tremendous scope for trade and economic ties between the two countries, the actual trade performance between India and Canada had not been according to the potential and expectations.

India's share in Canada's global market was a mere 0.18 per cent in 1991 and Canada's share in India's global import was only 1.17 per cent and India had a trade deficit of Rs [rupees] 217.12 crore with Canada during 1991-92.

The minister said that Canada could import from India at a price advantage tea, coffee, spices, textiles as well as gem and jewellery. leather and engineering goods.

The Canadian businessmen urged India to send a high level ministerial delegation to Canada. to inform the Canadian businessmen and government about the economic reforms being carried out in India and outline the investment opportunities available in the country.

Addressing the meeting. Canada-India JBC Chairman Mr Steven R Roessler said that India should step up its publicity campaign immediately as a large area of business had opened up in India as a result of rapid industrialisation and in the absence of proper information, the investors might be diverted to other countries particulalry the nations under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

He said that there was an overwhelming impression that the Indian economy was overprotected but the same was gradually vanishing and a lot of effort was required to eliminate the feeling altogether.

In his address, Mr K K Jajodia. chairman, Indian Section of India-Canada JBC said that India could also offer a large number of skilled English speaking labour and a large pool of scientific and technical manpower, low labour cost and extensive industrial infratructure.

Groups To Boost Trade Relations With Italy

BK1211041492 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Nov 92 p 13

[Text] New Delhi—The India-Italy Joint Business Council has set up two permanent secretariats in New Delhi and Rome to facilitate investment and trade between the two countries.

The secretariats would work towards bringing prospective business partners from India and Italy together. The decision to set up these bodies was taken at the 7th meeting of the India-Italy Joint Business Council (JBC) here on Monday.

As most of the large industrial houses in both the countries have access to trade and investment information regarding the two countries, the two secretariats would be focussing on the small and medium enterprises. They shall supply trade and investment related information to them to facilitate and concretise business proposals.

Singapore Taking Steps To Further Develop Ties

BK1211092692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The Singapore Government is embarking on a multipurpose approach to develop relations with India. According to PTI, serious discussions are being held in this direction with officials of the Indian High Commission, particularly to encourage large Indian companies to set up offices in Singapore and to recruit technologists and teachers. During the last seven months, at least eight Indian trading firms have opened offices in Singapore, while another six have already obtained approval.

Foreign Policy Course Corrections Anticipated

BK1011123392 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Commentary by Ashoke Sharma, special correspondent of PRESS TRUST OF INDIA: "Foreign Policy Imperatives"]

[Text] India can draw little comfort from the collapse of the Soviet Union and a Democratic victory in the United States presidential election. The end of the Cold War does not mean the end of the danger in the world, and the economic confrontation seems to be building up with the U.S. taking to protectionist measures directed against Europe and Asia. A review of India's foreign policy on a continuing basis in the post-Cold War era is thus becoming a necessity. An inkling of such an exercise under way to strike a chord of consensus between parliament and the government was provided by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, at the parliamentary consultative committee meeting held last Thursday attached to the External Affairs Ministry. Articulating the government's thinking on the issue, Mr. Rao emphasized the need to examine the foreign policy of the country in all its complexities.

The prime minister's comments came at a time when it is increasingly becoming clear that pressure on India from the United States led by Mr. Bill Clinton will mount further on the human rights, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], and other disarmament issues. Policies pursued by the industrialized world convey the impression that India was getting isolated on the nuclear issue and they want New Delhi to be more realistic in its approach in the changed global situation. India appears to be fully against the current on the nuclear issue. It's policy seeking global disarmament in the face of nuclear weapons positioned in China and the newly independent nations of the erstwhile Soviet Union has few supporters in the developed world. In the post-Cold War era, most of the countries under pressure from the U.S. are adopting a regional approach to tackle issues such as arms control, security arrangements, and confidence-building measures in the nuclear field. Argentina and Brazil have signed an agreement to sort out the nuclear proliferation issue. The two Koreas are working in the same direction. Pressure is mounting on India to accept a Pakistani proposal to sort out the nuclear issue through a five-nation conference with the U.S., Russia, and China as the other participants. India has opened a bilateral dialogue with the U.S. on the issue. It may have to think of alternatives in case the five-nation summit proposal was totally unacceptable to it.

Human rights constitute another field in which Clinton presidency may turn out to be more uncomfortable with India than Mr. George Bush. There is a reason for concern that India's record in this respect in Punjab and Kashmir may invite harsh scrutiny once Democrats take over. India is moving in the direction of satisfying the Western concerns. The appointment of a human rights commission and attempts to initiate a political dialogue, culminating in holding of elections in the trouble-torn state are important steps in that direction. The Clinton administration is likely to be unforgiving of the export of terrorism from Pakistan by way of weapons, training, and cash. The threat to name Pakistan as a terrorist state may become far more real and one must feel that the government is, perhaps, preparing the ground for any decision it may have to take in the face of the growing international (?clamor) for India to sign the NPT. At the parliamentary consultative committee meeting, the prime minister said an examination of the foreign policy was necessary to reaffirm the impressive consensus that has always existed in India on foreign policy and stressed that parliament and government must meet this need.

Punjab Border With Pakistan Being Reinforced

BK1111090492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The 554-km-long Indo-Pak border in Punjab sealed with wire fencing and flood lights is being further strengthened. This will help prevent 100 percent intrusion from across the border of Pak-trained militants and smugglers. The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, said this at an observation post near the border where he witnessed a demonstration by BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers].

Chavan Views Steps To Tackle Terrorism in South

BK1011161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The home minister has said that the chief ministers of the southern states have stressed the need for establishing a coordinated intelligence setup for providing information on the movement of terrorists. Speaking to newsmen in Madras today, he said that the step will help tackle the subversive activities in these states. Referring to the discussions in the southern Zone Council meeting, Mr. S.B. Chavan said that chief ministers put forward a proposal to establish a southern gas grid which could establish petrochemical industries in the southern region. Mr. Chavan said that the center does not approve of any move to destabilize the Jayalalitha government in Tamil Nadu. He said the alliance between the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] and the Congress-I stands and there is no scope for any misunderstanding in this regard. He said the allocation of resources to the states for the development of SC's and ST's [Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes] are not proportional to their population. This will be set right in future, he added. Earlier, addressing the south Zone Council meeting, Mr. Chavan called for a two-pronged strategy to deal with the problems of insurgency, communalism, and left-wing extremism in the country. [passage omitted]

Finance Ministry Implicated in Securities Scam

BK1211073692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC], Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, says available evidence indicates that the Finance Ministry was aware of the higly speculative practices in the share market before the security scandal broke out, but its advice to the stock exchanges in March this year did not have the desired effect. He was briefing reporters in New Delhi last night after examining the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India [SEBI] and top officials of the four major stock exchanges. Answering a question, the JPC chairman said there is laxity on the part of the stock exchanges in implementing their own rules and bylaws. He stated that the Bombay Exchange delayed disciplinary action against the stock broker, Mrs. Jyoti Meht, for almost one year, though she was found guilty of irregularities as far back as May 1991.

Asked about the practice of forward trading, Mr. Mirdha said this was banned officially in 1969, but has since been allowed in some form by the Bombay and Ahmedabad exchanges. He said the SBI [State Bank of India] is in favour of banning such deals. The JPC will examine today the major share brokers including Harshad Mehta and Bhupane Dalal.

Minister on Objectives of New Industrial Policy

BK1111085492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The minister of state for heavy industry and public enterprises, Mr. P.K. Tungan, says that the new industrial policy is aimed at improving the living conditions of the people and does not intend to abandon the Nehruvian policy. He was speaking at the International Conference on the impact of government's new industrial policy in New Delhi yesterday. He said the new policy has already made a dent in terms of foreign investment as 3,365 crore rupees worth of direct foreign investments have been approved between July 1991 and September '92, as compared to 201 crore rupees approved during the corresponding period the year before. He called upon the entrepreneurs to contribute to the success of the new policy by taking its full advantage. The minister also presented the Udyog [Industries] Excellence awards instituted by the Industrial Economic Forum to 23 successful entrepreneurs.

Officials Expect Improved Economic Growth

BK1011130492 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The government is hopeful that the inflation rate will be brought down to 8 percent by March next. Finance Ministry officials told newsmen in New Delhi that the present swing to a double-digit figure is temporary and there is no cause for alarm. The officials said the spurt in the inflation rate to 10.03 percent at present was due to the unexpected increase in the administered prices of petroleum products and said this could get absorbed in the coming weeks.

The officials said though the economy is not totally out of the woods, it has started looking up as compared to last year. They said government is confident of ending the year with about 3.5 to 4 percent GDP growth as against 2 percent last year. The officials said the IMF has indicated that it will be willing to extend further loans to India under the Extended Fund Facility and the Extended Structural Adjustment Facility of soft interest rates. They said the government will need $2.5 to 3 billion annually for the next three years to meet exceptional financing needs. The exact quantum of aid will be known only after the negotiations in April next.

Iran

Chief Justice Confirms Death Sentence on Rushdie

LD1011234392 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The death sentence against apostate Salman Rushdie is an Islamic cannonical decree and none can alter it, Chief Justice Ayatollah Morteza Moqtada'i made it clear here today.

Speaking at the Supreme Court's general meeting, the ayatollah called the Indian-born British apostate's appeal to the United States and European countries to put pressure on Iran to repeal the verdict as "desperate" attempts. He added that more than 40 countries at the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have confirmed the verdict, so carrying out the order against the apostate Rushdie is an obligation for all Muslims, whether Shiite or Sunni.

The verdict against Rushdie, noted the chief justice, pronounced by the father of the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni (in February 1989) as per divine laws, for blasphemy to Islam and Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) in the book "The Satanic Verses", is "an Islamic order and irrevocable."

Later in the session the ayatollah appreciated the assistance of the Iranian nation and Government to the Europe's native Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina who are being systematically slaughtered by the Serbs in front of a mute world.

Khamene'i Reminds Schools of 'Revolutionary Duty'

LD1111113892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, at a meeting with the minister of culture and higher education, university chancellors, and heads of the research and higher education institutes, today made a speech and stressed the need for proper planning to train experts committed to the principles of the revolution and the Islamic system.

On the importance of arming the future generation with Islamic commitment and revolutionary fervor, the esteemed leader said: The country's universities should move towards training the manpower committed to Islam and the revolution; and in the coming years, as our time distance from the origin of the revolution gradually increases, the universities should present society with the graduates, who are committed and loyal to Islam and ready for jihad and self-sacrifice towards safeguarding the country's national independence and freedom from the claws of the global hegemonists. These graduates should not refrain from giving their lives in order to safeguard the lofty values. [passage omitted]

While stressing that the universities should be able to meet the expectations of Islam and the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: As a revolutionary duty, the university chancellors and executive officials of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Hygiene, Treatment, and Medical Training are compelled to hold meetings so as to find the best possible ways of utilizing the universities to train the expert manpower committed and loyal to the principles of the revolution, who would strive to serve Islam's goals. During such meetings, they should identify those agents who prevent realization of this fundamental and significant objective, and should prepare plans for their elimination. [passage omitted]

While reiterating the importance of mutual respect between professors and students, the leader of the Islamic revolution criticized the unkind treatment of the revolutionary and Hezbollahi students by a handful of university professors and said: The university chancellors must make note of this important issue lest some professors, who lack revolutionary motive, badly treat or insult the students for their religious and revolutionary behavior. Lest they should make the classroom environment and examination halls insecure for such students. This problem is not acceptable under any circumstances; and those in charge of the universities must strongly deal with those individuals who are against the revolutionary principles. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Rejects Resignation of Khorramabad Imam

LD1111072192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i rejected the resignation of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hoseyni Mianaji as the Friday prayers imam in Khorramabad, and stressed the need for his continued presence in that trench.

The exalted leader, meanwhile, has praised the valuable efforts of Khorramabad's Friday prayers imam and emphasized the need for him to be present among the courageous, faithful, and sincere people of that city.

Tehran Municipality Demolishes More Buildings

LD1111141492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran's 18th municipality district, in accordance with its legal obligation, cooperation, and coordination of the relevant organs began demolishing 46 more residential and commercial units that were constructed in this district without obtaining a licence. The buildings in question were along Khalij avenue, leading toward Nowruzabad township between the old Karaj road and Tehran's southern circular road.

Rafsanjani Comments on Qazvin Power Station Visit

LD1111131692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of his inspection of the Martyr Raja'i power station in Qazvin, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani took part in an interview with our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] What are the effects of increasing electricity production on the country's development projects?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We have always thought that this power station would play a part in leading our country toward our self-sufficiency. I have been constantly informed about the project since coming here when the foundations of the project were being laid. We heard about the project and it sounded ideal to us that such a project was planned. God be praised—we now witness its result, seeing its first unit being joined to the national grid. I think some believed that the project was impractical and too difficult. Then it became clear that through the efforts of our committed experts and powerful managers we could see the high ambitions of that day being achieved today. [passage omitted]

Here I deem it necessary to sincerely thank the brothers who worked hard in the electricity industry during the building of the project. [passage omitted]

What I expect from the gentlemen and ladies who work in this field is for them to make efforts to use the country's optimum capacity during the next two or three years, while we are undergoing a period of hard reconstruction, so that we no longer face power cuts, even though our people know that other countries in same situation usually have very long power cuts. [passage omitted] [end recording]

ICO Secretary General Calls 'Emergency Session'

NC1111084192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Hamid al-Qabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], who is currently visiting Tehran, was interviewed by correspondents yesterday and said: The emergency session in Jeddah is being convened to assess the problems in Bosnia-Hercegovina and will be a suitable opportunity to decide on an effective course of action to end the catastrophe there.

In a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, al-Qabid said: Islamic countries need a new strategy to confront the mounting Serbian crimes.

The emergency ICO foreign ministers conference to review the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis will be convened on the request and follow up of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We expect to hold the meeting on 1-2 December in Jeddah. Al-Qabid called for continued cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICO to reach a practical to resolve the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis.

Besharati expressed the hope that a serious and concerted decision will be made at the ICO session in Jeddah, adding: The Islamic Republic of Iran declares its readiness for multilateral cooperation with the ICO and all Islamic countries to support the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Bosnian Muslim Envoy Grateful for Support

LD1011160192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpts] In an interview with our correspondent, Bosnia-Hercegovina's envoy in Tehran thanked His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, and the Iranian nation for fervently supporting the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said: Iran is the only country which has so far actively supported the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and has taken positive practical steps in this field.

He added: Since the beginning of the Serbian attack on the Muslim-inhabited areas of Bosnia-Hercegovina more than 100,000 have been martyred, and 1.5 million civilians have been forced to flee their homes; and at present over 70 percent of our territory is occupied by the Serbs. [passage omitted]

Talking about the reason behind the silence of the Western governments in the face of the crimes committed by the Serbs in Bosnia, Mr. (Bokovic) said: Western countries are afraid of the establishment of an Islamic state and the nsion of the Islamic thought in the heart of Europe. They have, therefore, decided to ignore the crimes of the Serbs.

In conclusion, Mr. (Bokovic), the diplomatic envoy of Bosnia-Hercegovina in Tehran, expressed the hope that practical ways of helping the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina will be sought during the coming session of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is called to come out in support of our people.

IRNA: Palestinian Cause Suffers 'Severe Setbacks'

LD1011110492 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Athens, Nov 10, IRNA—A swift review of the developments since the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks began in Madrid last year in October show that the Palestinian cause has suffered severe setbacks.

First and foremost, by agreeing to hold direct talks with the Zionist entity, the Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have given legitimacy to Israel to strengthen its economic, political and military existence in the region.

The so-called peace process helped the Zionist state to break its international isolation and establish diplomatic, economic and military relations with a number of major nations of the world like Russia, China and India.

The United Nations, under American pressure, cancelled its former resolution that equated Zionism with racism.

Russia, as a co-sponsor of the Middle East talks, agreed to allow millions of Jews to migrate to occupied Palestine giving the Zionist regime the excuse to build new Jewish settlements.

The peace process offered the Zionist regime an opportunity to adopt terror methods to quell the Palestinian uprising (Intifadah) and to dampen the morale of the Palestinians who are sacrificing their lives to liberate their homeland, while the PLO-backed delegates are negotiating with the enemy.

Negotiations have opened the doors for separate peace treaties between Israel and Jordan on the one hand, and Israel and Syria on the other hand, like the Camp David Treaty with Egypt. Such a move would bury the Palestinian question.

The peace process gave Israel the chance to influence the Arab public mind psychologically by talking direct to the Arab media. Arab papers now write "the Israeli prime minister," "the Israeli president," etc. Instead of the "leader of the Zionist regime" or the "enemy," as they used to write before.

Zionists have used the opportunity to remove from the Arab public opinion the military option as a means to liberate Palestine.

The peace process has deepened the rift and differences among the Palestinian groups, harming the unity of the Palestinian people.

The peace talks are being held under Israeli conditions which has ruled out any role of the United Nations or Europe.

Even after seven rounds, the talks did not take up the issue of al-Quds [Jerusalem] nor the Arab condition of "land for peace."

Egypt Reminded of Conditions for Ties

LD1111222892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 11 Nov 92 [Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to security forces in Egypt curfew has been imposed in various localities of the city of Asyut following clashes of the security and police forces with the Islamists. Reportedly these clashes that had begun last Monday appeared to have ended. This is at the time when the Egyptian regime's security agents yesterday also arrested eight of the revolutionary Muslims in the vicinity of Dayrut. Reports say that a number of Egyptian Muslims were also wounded in the recent clashes.

The renewed clashes between the revolutionary Muslims and the security forces of Egypt have shown distinct variations over the past several months. Despite the escalating wave of suppression in Egypt, activities of the Muslim groups have been gaining momentum. This is under the circumstances when the Cairo regime, by approving a series of legislations, has stipulated heavier punishments for the revolutionary Muslims.

Informed sources in Egypt, while confirming the growing trend of opposition to the regime's domestic and foreign policies by the Egyptian Muslims, view them as an important and effective factor for the rising discontent among the people of the country. According to indications this very issue has added to the concern of the government circles and rulers in Egypt. In a meeting with the deputies of the ruling national democratic party in the Egyptian parliament, President Husni Mubarak did not conceal his concern over the matter and pointed out that severe suppression of the groups believing in principles was at the top of his programs.

These comments in fact are a reaffirmation of the suppressive policy adopted by his government to counter the Islamic movement in recent years. During the late seventies and subsequent years, and in the wake of the conclusion of the Camp David treaty, when the Cairo regime, by according recognition to the entity of the Zionist enemy, in fact brought an irreparable humiliation to Egypt and considering numerous economic constraints caused by its wrong economic policy to the Egyptian society, that regime has constantly faced a wave of increasing discontent from the Muslims of the country.

In the midst [as heard] the endeavor has been made by Egypt for mediation in the compromise process between other Arab governments and the Zionist regime have added to the dissidence and protests. Therefore, the issue that cannot be overlooked so easily and with total indifference relates to the historical background on the growth of this Islamic movement in the present day Egyptian society. This is the same theme which the government officials in Egypt have constantly evaded to accept and on the contrary have endeavored to link this movement to foreign countries similar to the leaders of some other countries who themselves are confronting the phenomenon of the belief in principles. This efforts [as heard] is being made by the Cairo regime to evade the liability for creating such a situation.

The Egyptian president who apparently attributes his lack of interest in establishing ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran to the so-called Iranian intervention in the internal situation of Egypt and link to the Islamists has however forgotten the fact that Tehran has made resumption of his diplomatic ties with Cairo conditional to the cancellation of the Camp David treaty.

Government To Release 400 Iraqi POW's

LD1011162692 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will release 400 Iraqi prisoners of war, captured in 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war, in the next two days in continuation of her unilateral humanitarian measures, said the spokesman of the commission in charge of POWs here Tuesday.

"The latest humanitarian move of Iran is repeated at a time when Iraq has shown no appropriate reaction—release of all Iranian POWs still remaining in Iraq," said the spokesman.

He expressed the hope that Iran's latest humanitarian act will pave the way for a positive action by international organizations and the Iraqi Government to make possible the return home of all Iranian POWs.

Joint Research Center on Caspian Sea To Open

LD1011173392 Tehran IRNA in English 1514 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Sari (Mazandaran), Nov. 10, IRNA—A joint research centre for Caspian Sea studies is to be established by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation.

According to Iran's Arsalan Mansuri, an expert on related matters, the main objective of opening the centre is to tackle the problem of the rising waters of the Caspian Sea which have inundated coastal lands. He said other issues to be dealt by the planned centre are the natural resources of the Caspian and its role in international trade exchanges between the littoral states.

Mansuri said an agreement in principle was reached on the above at the second sub-commission of the Tehran-Moscow scientific and technological cooperation held in Tehran November 5-8. The two countries will draft a constitution for the centre which is open for membership to other Caspian countries.

The Caspian, the world's largest inland sea, is hemmed in by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the Azerbaijan Republic.

Pakistan

Minister on Working With New U.S. Administration

BK1211162492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said that Pakistan desires to work with the new American administration to further stabilize its relations with the United States. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad this evening, he said both countries can have fruitful cooperation in several sectors. However, he made it clear that there will not be any compromise on national interests and said we are focusing our attention not to get assistance, but to strengthen bilateral ties.

Replying to a question, the minister said Pakistan's stand on the nuclear issue is quite clear. He reiterated that Pakistan would continue its political, moral, and diplomatic support for the just cause of the Kashmiris. Kanjoo said we consider it quite encouraging that during the entire election campaign, the Democrats put utmost emphasis on human rights. He expressed the hope that the new U.S. administration led by Bill Clinton will take serious note of the atrocities and gross human rights violations committed by the Indian occupation forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Minister's Statement on Punjab Rejected

BK1211064892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Pakistan has categorically rejected the recent remarks by Indian Minister of State for Home M.L. Jacob implicating Pakistan in the situation in Indian Punjab and described them as absolutely incorrect. A press release issued by the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi yesterday said that such types of allegations can only serve to complicate relations between the two countries. The Indian minister, while speaking at a function in Jullundhur, had alleged that Pakistan was encouraging extremists in Indian Punjab.

The press release said it is about time the Indian Government lived up to its responsibility of dealing with its own problems and stopped apportioning blame for its failure to do so.

'No Forward Movement' Seen in Talks With India

BK1111144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] A two-day meeting of the foreign ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] will be held in Islamabad from the 28th of this month. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the agenda of the meeting includes induction of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan into the organization. Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey are founding members of the ECO. The spokesman said the 21st meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers will be held in Karachi toward the end of April next.

The spokesman said the sixth round of secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan on the Siachen issue ended with no forward movement. The spokesman said at the talks held in New Delhi recently, the Indian side had introduced preconditions that were not acceptable to Pakistan. He said these preconditions went beyond what was agreed between two countries in June 1989 on the Siachen issue.

Sharif Discusses India With Human Rights Activist

BK1211064792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said his government is making all possible efforts for the protection of Pakistanis visiting India and also for an end to Indian brutalities against innocent Kashmiris. He was talking to the human rights campaigner, Ansar Burney, who called on him in Islamabad yesterday to apprise him of Indian atrocities against Pakistani tourists, besides other matters. The prime minister commended the services rendered by the Ansar Burney Welfare Trust for the cause of humanity.

Later, Burney called on Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for Foreign Affairs, and discussed matters relating to bringing back the bodies of two Pakistanis who were killed in gruesome circumstances by the Indian authorities. He also apprised the minister of state about the plight of Pakistanis jailed in India. Kanjoo told Burney that Pakistan had already strongly protested to the Indian Government on its negative response and had demanded the return of the bodies of Pakistani nationals and the release of Pakistani prisoners. Burney also called on Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan.

Government Takes Strong Exception To PDA March

BK1111144492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The government has taken strong exception to the PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance] call for long march and declared that such destructive politics would be checked sternly. Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, special assistant to the prime minister, said in Islamabad today that a trend of destabilizing an elected government through long march is aimed at taking the nation toward total disorder. He said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and his government believe in democratic norms and will fight with the opposition politically. The government enjoys grassroot level support of the masses and can handle the elements who are out to grab power by bringing the people on roads. Sounding a note of caution to all those who believe in democratic principles, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan said the PPP leadership was going to get a highly negative and destructive tradition. The common man would certainly be perturbed over the situation being created by the PDA, he added.

Minister on Possible Fighter Aircraft Purchase

BK1211091492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The Senate was informed today that Pakistan and Afghanistan are to be linked through rail from Landi Kotal to Kabul. The minister for parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, replying to a question by Mr. Bostan Ali Hoti, told the house that a memorandum of understanding to this effect has already been signed between the two countries. Preliminary survey and feasibility will be conducted by Pakistan Railways in association with engineers from Afghanistan.

The minister for defense production, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, told the house in reply to another question by the same member that various options were being explored for procurement of fighter planes for PAF [Pakistan Air Force]. He said no final decision has been taken for the purchase of Mirage-2000 from France. The Air Headquarters, he said, was evaluating different makes, including Soviet-made SU-27 and MiG-29 and Britain's Tornado, and final decision will be taken keeping in view the requirements of the Air Force.

Japanese Royal Couple Visits Islamabad

Thanked for Economic Aid

OW1011174992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1416 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 10 KYODO—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Tuesday [10 November] thanked Japanese Prince Akishino for the "substantial role" Japan is playing in the technological and economic advancement of Pakistan, a presidential spokesman said.

The president expressed Pakistan's gratitude in a meeting with the prince and his wife, Princess Kiko, in the afternoon.

Khan also expressed appreciation for Japan's assistance in various socioeconomic uplift projects, the spokesman said.

The Japanese royal couple, currently on a four-day visit that began Sunday, had a busy schedule Tuesday, starting with a tree planting ceremony at shakarparian overlooking Islamabad and a visit to archaeological sites at nearby Taxila, about 30 kilometers north of the capital.

The couple took a walk in the 5,000-year-old ruins of the pre-Buddhist civilizations at Sirkap and Jolian near Taxila.

They later took their lunch at the guesthouse of the Taxila Museum known for its collection on the Gandharan civilization.

Prince Akishino, the younger son of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and his wife departed Japan last Thursday on a 20-day tour of Thailand, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

Meets With Prime Minister

OW1111095592 Tokyo KYODO in English 2316 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 11 KYODO—Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Tuesday [10 November] he hopes that Pakistan will emulate Japan by making progress without breaking away from its past.

Speaking at a banquet for Japan's Prince Akishino and his wife, Princess Kiko, the prime minister said he wants Pakistan to develop at a rapid pace without losing touch with its cultural and historical ties in the process of modernization.

He said Japan has achieved modernization without eroding the spirit of its culture and history.

The Pakistani prime minister also referred to economic reforms announced by his government which he said had opened the door for the promotion of foreign investment and joint ventures in Pakistan.

He paid tribute to the contribution of the Japanese imperial family and the government of Japan in helping Pakistan in the preservation of Buddhist monuments of art and culture.

Nawaz said he is looking forward to his visit to Japan from December 16, during which he is expected to inaugurate a Tokyo seminar on foreign investment.

Prince Akishino, younger son of Emperor Akihito, and Princess Kiko end their four-day visit to Pakistan Thursday and will fly to India on the second leg of their four-Asian-nation tour.

Tours Khyber Pass

OW1211043292 Tokyo KYODO in English 2344 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 12 KYODO—Japanese Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko paid a flying visit to Peshawar on Wednesday to see the historic Khyber Pass and visit a refugee camp on the outskirts of the city bordering Afghanistan.

The royal couple viewed the Pakistan-Afghanistan border from the Chamkani Post overlooking the Khyber Pass, which has been the gateway to invading armies and trade caravans for thousands of years.

The prince and princess were profusely garlanded by the tribal elders and leaders at the post and presented with two rams in the tradition of the tribal areas.

Prince Akishino told guests at a reception at the Japanese Embassy on Monday that when he was leaving on the visit to Pakistan, his father Emperor Akihito told him that he still remembered the grandeur of the Khyber Pass from his visit to Pakistan in 1962.

The prince was also presented with a tribal dagger and a kimono-like "chaugha" robe, while the princess received a kashmiri shawl, on behalf of the military regiment, the Khyber Rifles.

The royal couple was accompanied by the governor of the northwest frontier province, retired Lt. Gen. Amir Gulistan Janjua.

Earlier the prince and princess visited the Katchigarhi refugee camp where they saw an income-generation project for the Afghan refugees and a school for refugee children.

In the afternoon they left for Lahore, on the eastern side of Pakistan.